Sandwell
CHRONICLE

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CLOSURES TO HIT ROADS AROUND LONG-RUNNING M5 WORKS

Scaffolding under the motorway at Oldbury

THE M5 roadworks misery is set to spread to the roads in Sandwell – with a series of closures planned as part of the long-running motorway works. Birmingham Road, Park Lane and Stone Street, in Oldbury, as well as Spon Lane South, in West Bromwich, will be closed for periods during the works, it has been announced.

Temporary traffic lights and lane closures are also planned on the roads at other times – set to bring more disruption and cause frustration with council chiefs who have criticised the impact of the M5 scheme on West Bromwich and Oldbury.

The affected roads surround the M5 and highways bosses said they would need to be closed at certain times for safety reasons as scaffolding is put up and taken down.

Dates for closures have yet to be confirmed but the roads are expected to shut during different periods until the end of the long-running scheme next year.

Sandwell Council said the closures would be mostly overnight and short-term. Drivers could face disruption on Birmingham Road in particular, as it is a main route in and out of Oldbury. The controversial scheme between junctions one and two, for West Bromwich and Oldbury, has caused major disruption over the last few weeks.

Repairs are being made to the crumbling Oldbury viaduct, with disruption expected until the end of 2018. The speed limit has been cut to 30mph and traffic filtered into two lanes running in either direction. A Sandwell Council spokesman said: "The road in question are being closed in order to facilitate the safe erection and removal of scaffolding and drainage works.

"There are no firm dates for any of these closures at present although, with the exception of Houghton Street, closures will predominantly be overnight and short term only. Additional traffic management measures such as temporary traffic signals and lane closures may at times also be necessary in order to facilitate the works."

Highways England has come under fire over restrictions that have been put in place on the motorway, with some politicians complaining they are too severe.

CLEAR-UP CALL ON GRAVEYARD

A GRAVEYARD in Tipton has been branded a 'mess' with demands being made for it to be cleared up.

Tipton councillor Pete Allen said the area at Tipton Cemetery needed to be made 'respectable'. The memorial is a common grave for people who were previously buried at St Martin's Church, in Owen Road, around a mile away. The graves were moved to the cemetery in Alexandra Road to make way for housing development.

By Joe Edwards

This came after the church was sold off in 1998.

Councillor Allen said: "The memorial area is definitely a mess and I have met and spoken with a neighbourhood manager and we will hopefully have this area cleared and made respectable hopefully this week. Some of the graves had to be moved to accommodate the sale of the church and provide a new resting place."

The stone memorial plaque reads: "In memory of those previously buried in the churchyard of St Martin's Church Tipton and re-interred here.

"This memorial marks the location of a common grave which was blessed on 22nd November 1999."

Tipton Cemetery holds a Green Flag status. The site is one of 11 parks that have been awarded Green Flags in Sandwell.

Friends of Tipton Cemetery member Keith Hodgkins said: "A large part of St Martin's churchyard was deconsecrated and sold for housing development. All the remains were re-interred in Tipton Cemetery. The church was made redundant in 1986 and put up for sale by Church of England. In 1998 a large of the church was sold for housing. "

The cemetery is also home to around 10 Commonwealth War Graves, said Mr Hodgkins.

Meanwhile, St Martin's Church was bought in 2005 and turned into a home, which was featured on Channel 4's Grand Designs, he added.

Neighbourhoods chief Councillor Syeda Khatun, deputy leader and cabinet member for neighbourhoods and communities, said: "This small area was seeded with a wildflower mix which hasn't been very successful.

"As part of our Green Flag action plan we were looking to produce results similar to those we have in other open spaces. We are confident that the area will be much improved once the wild flowers are established successfully.

"In the meantime we'll tidy up the area as soon as possible."

Farewell Les, with Baggies tributes

Inset, Les, and above right, the hearse goes past Bomber Brown's statue

Relatives show their true colours

The famous flat cap, worn by Les

DOZENS flocked to pay tribute to one life-long West Bromwich Albion fan as he made his final journey from The Hawthorns. They came in their blue and white stripes and flat caps to commemorate 91-year-old William Leslie 'Les' James, from Smethwick, who had seen the best part of almost 70 years at The Hawthorns.

Television personality Adrian Chiles was among the many to attend the service at Sandwell Crematorium, he said: "I first met him not long after he'd lost the wife that he had cared for so long, he was in his tiny little council house in Smethwick with his little dog Rusty.

"He told all the time how he had one outlet for all his Albion angst, that was his gardening."

Chairman of the West Bromwich Albion supporters club John Homer, said: "He was just a lovely, charming gentleman." The service closed with Harry J Allstars hit 'Liquidator', a song made popular amongst West Brom fans, and a rendition of the Last Post.

HOSPITAL

Trust in £1.5m agency spend

HEALTH chiefs in Sandwell spent more than £1.5 million in a month on agency staff – exceeding national agency caps.

Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust bosses paid out £1,621,000 on temporary workers in June, up £249,000 from the previous month.

And the trust needs to 'significantly reduce temporary pay costs' in order to hit its financial targets for this year, bosses have warned.

Chief executive Toby Lewis said the Trust was tackling agency spending through 'recruitment activities' and banning the most expensive agencies. Mr Lewis said: "Reducing the amount we spend on temporary staff is a key priority. June's reported data includes some older items and was explicitly not part of the trend line.

"We are tackling agency spend, and have seen significant reductions – up to 40 per cent in some cases – from a high in December 2016 of £2.4m, £1.9m in March, £1.6m in June to £1.4 million in July, thanks to our recent recruitment activities and banning the use of high cost agencies."

EDUCATION

College joins up with university

UNIVERSITY courses will be taught in West Bromwich following a ground-breaking deal between Sandwell College and Coventry University.

Degree-level courses will be offered in a range of subjects at the £70 million Advanced and Higher Education Centre, in New Street, as part of a move which has been hailed by education leaders.

The raft of degrees will range from science-based subjects to engineering and law. College principle Graham Pennington said: "We are delighted to be launching this pioneering partnership."

Among subjects to be covered will be Biological and chemical sciences, law and practice and commmunity studies.

To apply for all higher education courses, call 0800 622 006 or visit www.sandwell.ac.uk/higher-education.

INSIDE

IT'S WALL ABOUT THE HISTORY

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Calls made for legal prostitution zone

A LEGAL prostitution zone should be introduced in a bid to tackle sex slavery in the West Midlands, a slavery investigator has said.

A former police officer whose identity cannot be revealed says it would help them ensure the safety of women, while reducing the amount of 'pop-up brothels'. The idea has been used in Leeds, where the zone was given permanent status last year.

West Midlands Police has not ruled out the scheme. Speaking to the Chronicle's sister paper, the Express & Star, he said: "It (legal prostitution zone) would be helpful in terms of the girls safety and looking at the issue from the victims' point of view.

"It is not something which can be done overnight and would take a great deal of work. But it could provide a way for us to get on the girls' side, provide security and tackle pop-up brothels. These girls often do not trust the police. They are often alone under control of someone else.

"If we were able connect with them - that can only be a good thing."

He said the idea could be helpful, as currently it was difficult to find women being used in sex slavery.

As exposed in Express & Star investigation earlier this year, the women are brought in from eastern Europe and moved around the UK in groups. Living in a house together, their services are advertised on websites.

While sometimes receiving alot of money, the women can struggle to break free of the ring and are at risk of violence. He said: "It is an underground operation happening right under our noses. It can be difficult to get the girls' trust as from where they are from the authorities cannot be trusted.

"So I'd urge people who can see the signs such as men coming and going out of an address of it to let us know."

The zone was introduced in Holbeck, Leeds as part of a trial two years ago.

Young Tommy's day to remember with Baggies

YOUNG Tommy Brown had a day to remember at The Hawthorns as he rubbed shoulders with Premier League footballers and TV celebrities.

The five-year-old was the centre of attention ahead of West Bromwich Albion's 1-1 draw with Stoke City at the weekend, proud to be Fans' Champion for a second time.

At just seven months old Tommy lost both his legs and his right hand following a bout of meningitis, and outside the ground on Sunday fans were asked to donate to help provide him with new prosthetics.

Inside The Hawthorns, Tommy was smiling from ear to ear, particularly as he got to meet his favourite player James Morrison.

James McClean also took the time to pose for pictures with the youngster who won the hearts of Albion fans after first appearing as Fans' Champion earlier this year.

Skinner

Mascots Baggie Bird and Albi were reacquainted with Tommy and there was even time for a chat with celebrity Albion fans, comedian Frank Skinner and presenter Adrian Chiles.

Sunday's fundraising was organised by season-ticket holder and fundraiser Debbie Green. She said: "Tommy was just constantly smiling all day and was absolutely loving it. We went out to put the ball on the plinth and James Morrison came over and was just great with him. He is always asking me how he is doing. It is similar in a way to how Jermain Defoe was with Bradley Lowery.

"Then James McClean came over. He gets a lot of bad press but also took time out to see Tommy.

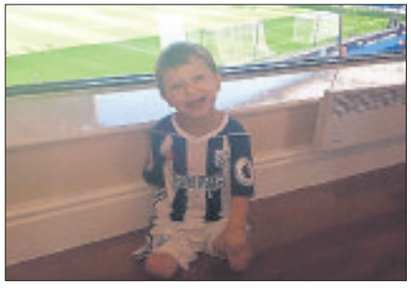
"Everyone just absolutely loves him."

A fundraising appeal for £20,000 was launched which would fund the new prosthetics five-year-old Tommy will need as he grows up. It is hoped that money collected at the match will mean they have now reached the target, with Debbie still counting up the donations.

James McLean seen with the five-year-old

Adrian Chiles, and Frank Skinner with the youngster

Mascots Baggie Bird and Albi say hello too


Tommy at the stadium, with the pitch behind him

Fantastic Finn-ish for Albion teen with passes

A BAGGIES trainee netted 10 top GCSEs – despite playing football six days a week.

Scholar Finn Azaz, aged 16, who has been handed a contract with the Albion academy, notched nine A*s and one A in his exams.

Finn Azaz

Finn, who attends King Edward's School in Birmingham, said he never stopped paying attention in class.

He said: "They're a bit better than what I was expecting and an improvement on my mocks but I put in a lot of work and revised a lot so I feel like I've got what I worked for.

"It's sort of all been building up to football at the end of it and I knew I was going to West Brom back in November.

"I can't imagine there'll be many others in the academy with the same grades but I'm sure it's not unheard of.

"I train five times a week and play one match a week on top of that. West Brom gave us some time off to give us revision time and we also had the Easter holidays which was pretty intense.

"If you pay attention to your classes over the last five years then by the time it comes to revising for GCSEs you're just refreshing everything you've already learnt."

McGregor set to take to stage

IRISH fighting superstar Conor McGregor will visit Birmingham next month following his defeat to Floyd Mayweather.

The mixed martial artist and two weight Ultimate Fighting Championship champion went toe to toe with boxing legend Mayweather only to be stopped in the 10th round against Mayweather who came out of retirement for the clash.

Following the fight, which is expected to bring in more than £100 million for McGregor, the 29 year old will take part in a live interview at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham.

'An Evening with Conor McGregor' will take place on September 28, with tickets priced at £51.75 or £68.70 and meet and greet and VIP packages also available.

To keep up to date on ticket availability, go to @BcardArena on Twitter.

Religious leader in plea over church bid

A FORMER church which could be converted into flats should be preserved as a place of worship, a religious leader has said. Plans have been lodged to turn The Church of God of Prophecy in Smethwick into 11 flats.

But Richard Umar Azeemi, who has worked at churches in the town, insists the church on Regent Street is of historical importance and should not be allowed to undergo major changes.

Mr Azeemi was part of a group which launched an unsuccessful attempt to save the church when it was put on the market and has lodged an objection with Sandwell Council over the new proposals.

As well as the loss of the church, he also raised concerns over parking if the church becomes flats and the impact on traffic. The church was built in 1887 but closed in 2013. The plans to turn it into flats could signal the end of the building as a place of worship.

Mr Azeemi said: "Too many of these buildings have been turned into flats and accommodation. There used to be three churches on Regent Street, now there is only one. It is an important, historic building and it would be desecration of the building which has got balconies and pews for all that to be ripped out."

Mr Azeemi is hoping planning bosses at Sandwell Council will not only the scheme to go ahead.

More talks for history group

HISTORY is alive and well in Sandwell as the West Bromwich Institute kicks off its 132nd season of talks next Tuesday.

The WBI began life back in 1885 to bring the Arts and Sciences to the working man and woman.

It returns at 7.30 at the Central Library, when local historian Alan Hill will be discussing The Great Exhibition of 1851 – entrance is via the back door.

Other upcoming talks include An Evening With Owls, Laughter In The Midlands and The Craft of The Silversmith.

Further details are available on the Institute's website which can be accessed at https://wbiltd.wordpress.com

Manor house tours

GUIDED tours of The Manor House Museum in West Bromwich are being held every Sunday until September 10.

They run throughout the day. For details, call 0121 588 2985.

Players urged to fund dementia care

PREMIER League footballers should donate a small percentage of their wages to help fund dementia care for ex-players, according to the daughter of a former Baggies player.

Dawn Astle, daughter of Jeff Astle, said just one per cent of footballer's wages could go a long way towards setting up care homes for those suffering with the disease.

Her father, who played 361 games for West Bromwich Albion and scored 174 goals, died in 2002 aged 59 due to a degenerative brain condition.

Ms Astle, whose family set up a foundation in her father's name in 2015, said dementia affects hundreds of former players. She said: "Our dream was to have a series of care homes to provide respite or long-term care.

"A one per cent levy on the wages of Premier League players would raise millions to do that. Surely today's players, who have so much money, wouldn't begrudge that so those who laid the foundations for everything they have can be looked after."

Her mother Lorraine, and wife of Jeff, called the initiative 'a lovely idea' and said she backs it '100 per cent'.

Earlier this year new research suggested footballers who repeatedly head the ball can end up suffering from dementia.

This prompted calls for more investigations to be carried out into a long-suspected issue in the sport.

Authors of the small study said the results provided a platform for a 'pressing research question' on whether dementia is more common in footballers than the general population.

Following the publication of the findings, the Football Association said it was committed to supporting further work in the area and had agreed, alongside the Professional Footballers' Association to jointly fund more research.

The ultimate goal of The Jeff Astle Foundation is to establish a care home for former sports people with dementia or chronic neurological impairment.

Healthcare assistant's sat nav thief locked up

A HOSPITAL car park thief who snatched a sat nav from a healthcare assistant's car as they tended to sick patients has been jailed for 13 months.

Elsworth Watson stole the Tom Tom from the car parked at Sandwell General Hospital, while the worker was on duty, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The 43-year-old came before Judge Nicholas Cartwright, who condemned the thief for carrying out the 'particularly mean offence' while armed with a kitchen knife.

Judge Cartwright added: "Everybody who looks at a newspaper, listens to the radio, watches the TV or hears what's going on in their community, knows that knives cause untold damage. You had no legitimate reason to be carrying a kitchen knife around."

The healthcare assistant discovered Watson had smashed his way into the car and taken the sat nav in the early hours of the morning, prosecutor Nicholas Smith said.

Discarded

Watson was later spotted on CCTV in the car park grasping a bag before two police officers on duty at the hospital decided to search the area. The thief was seen in nearby Law Street carrying the carrier bag but attempted to flee. Officers managed to catch up with Watson, who had discarded the carrier bag under a car in Bernard Street, as well as the 13cm blade, the court heard on Friday.

Defence barrister David Munro said Watson, who had convictions dating back to 1994, had gone to the hospital with his friend. He scoured the car park for an item he could sell for cash to buy food after a friend looking after his £370-worth of benefits had 'squandered' the money.

Watson, of Whitehall Road, Handsworth, had the blade with him but did not produce it, the court was told. The defendant, who suffers from bipolar disorder, admitted theft and having an article with a blade or a point between July 11 and 14. He was in breach of a 28-week sentence, suspended for 18 months, handed to him for possession of cannabis and two counts of theft from a motor – which was activated in full by the judge.

Club fired-up after sparring success

Dale Flute, of Tipton, and Arron Lennon, of West Midlands Fire Service, were among those taking part

AROUND 400 people took part in a 12-hour spar-a-thon to help raise funds for a community boxing club.

Bosses at Priory Park Boxing Club, in Paganel Drive, near Tipton, held the inventive fundraiser from 7am to 7pm on Saturday, hours before one of the biggest fights in the sport's history between Floyd Mayweather and Conor McGregor.

The club's members, from as young as four years old, were joined by friends and family, as well as West Midlands firefighters.

The fire service uses the gym for training and crew members were keen to get involved. Club chairman Paul Gough said: "All of the money raised will go to the Priory Park charity. It will help us to invest more in kids and to keep them off the streets."

Two rings at the club were in use throughout the spar-a-thon at the club, off Priory Road. Mr Gough added: "To do what we do costs quite a bit of money. Putting things on like this help us to achieve what we want to do. This club is about giving kids on the estate somewhere to go and be focused." Donations are still being accepted via justgiving.com/crowdfunding/prioryspar-athon

NEWS IN BRIEF

Taxi driver killed in hit-and-run

A TAXI driver was killed in a hit-and-run in Birmingham. The 47-year-old man was standing next to his car when he was struck on City Road, Edgbaston, at 1.50am on Tuesday. The car that hit him failed to stop at the scene.

Police have now launched an appeal for information from anyone who saw what happened.

Sergeant Alan Hands, from West Midlands Police's Collision Investigation Unit, said: "I would urge anyone who saw what happened on City Road or has any information to urgently call my team on 101. " Anyone who calls should quote log 193 29/8.

20th birthday for city festival

BIRMINGHAM Literature Festival celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, running from October 7 to 15.

Gary Younge will be talking about his new book Another Day in the Death of America in the Studio Theatre at the Library of Birmingham on October 7 at 8pm.

Comedian Joe Lycett will be joined by fellow Brummie and MP for Yardley Jess Phillips for an At Home evening in Birmingham Town Hall on October 11 at 8pm. For details, log onto www.birminghamliteraturefestival.org

Factory units to face bulldozers

A MASTERPLAN to transform a run-down industrial site into 350 new homes has moved a step closer – with old factory units set to be bulldozed.

The development has been earmarked for Woods Lane in Cradley Heath, near the town's train station.

An application has been lodged with Sandwell Council to knock down units formerly used by F&L Smith and Sons and Station Works as well as Judge House. A total of 351 homes will eventually be built on the site as part of the major scheme to change the face of Cradley Heath.

Paramore to play gig in Birmingham

TENNESSEE rockers Paramore will play for fans in Birmingham next year. The three-piece, which formed back in 2004, consists of lead vocalist Hayley Williams, guitarist Taylor York and drummer Zac Farro.

Songs they are best known for include Hard Times, That's What You Get and Ain't It Fun. The band will play the Genting Arena on Sunday, January 14. Tickets for the show go on sale tomorrow, Friday, from 9am.

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COUNTY NEWS

Adults fail to do 10-minute walks

MORE than 650,000 adults aged 40 to 60 in the West Midlands do not achieve 10 minutes of continuous brisk walking over the course of a month, according to a study by Public Health England.

The findings also reveal how lifestyles have changed over time, showing people in the UK are 20 per cent less active now than they were in the 1960s and on average walk 15 miles less a year than two decades ago.

Dr Lola Abudu, director of Health and Wellbeing at PHE West Midlands, said: "Inactivity among adults contributes to one in six deaths in the UK, the same as smoking."

Falling demand for farmland

DEMAND for farmland in the West Midlands fell again in the first half of this year. The latest Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and Royal Agricultural University rural land market survey saw respondents citing a lack of clarity over the post-Brexit landscape as negatively impacting the market.

There was also a fall in the availability of mixed use and commercial farmland for the second half year in a row. Farmland has slipped by nine per cent to £9,936 per acre in the region over the year. Respondents to the survey expect prices to remain flat for the coming 12 months.

Urgent appeal to find relatives

COUNCIL offers are urgently searching for relatives of a man who died at a care home. Ronald Arthur Smith, aged 87, passed away at Parklands Court Nursing Home, in Walsall, on July 29.

Mr Smith previously lived on Floyds Lane in Rushall before moving to New Street, also in Rushall.

Anyone with information is asked to call the council's client welfare services team on 01922 655551 or email clientwelfareservices@walsall.gov.uk.

Celebrate 80th in true Hobbit style

AN Unexpected Birthday celebration is being held to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the publication of JRR Tolkien's book The Hobbit.

Tickets are £25 for the event on September 9 at 7pm which will feature live music, a hog roast, plenty of ale and a slice of birthday cake at Sarehole Mill, Birmingham. It forms part of the annual Middle Earth Festival at the mill on September 9 and 10.

Borough students do well in exams

STUDENTS from across Sandwell had cause for celebration after opening their GCSE results. The exams were the first run under a new system, which sees pupils given scores – ranging from 1 to 9 – in their English and maths exams instead of grades. The other subjects are still marked from A* to U.

Fifty-one per cent of students at George Salter Academy in West Bromwich hit the new headline measure in both English and maths. In English 76 per cent achieved a 4 or better, while at least 51 per cent of students scored a 5 – deemed by the Government to be a 'strong pass'.

Bosses at Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy in Tividale have celebrated the best GCSE scores in the school's history. Overall, 57 per cent of students achieved at least a 4 or above in both English and maths.

In English, 71 per cent of students bagged a 4 or higher and 59 per cent a 5 or above. In Maths, 60 per cent of pupils gained a 4 or above. At Shireland Collegiate Academy in Smethwick chiefs hailed improvements in English and maths despite the changes to exams. In English, three quarters managed a grade 4 and more than 60 per cent achieved a grade 5.

At RSA Academy in Tipton, 61 per cent of students achieved a pass or better at English and 58 per cent in maths. Fifty-seven per cent of students at Bristnall Hall Academy in Oldbury netted results from grades 4 to 9 in English and maths.

At Wodensborough Ormiston Academy in Wednesbury 52 per cent of all students achieved a 4 or higher in English, while 38 per cent netted 5s.

Ormiston Forge Academy in Cradley Heath saw almost half of the 150 students taking GCSEs achieve a grade 4 in English and maths. More than half also achieved a C grade or above in all other subjects.

Students at Oldbury Academy are celebrating after achieving excellent results. Sixty per cent of students netted a good pass in English, whilst 57 per cent of students hit the mark in maths. At Sandwell Academy 66 per cent of pupils achieved pass grades or better in English and maths, with 83 per cent achieving a pass in either English literature or language.

Ban injunction served on head of travellers

By David Cosgrove

AN injunction banning a travelling family from setting up unauthorised encampments anywhere in Sandwell is now in force after papers were served on the head of the family.

Fourteen members of the Cassidy family were named in the injunction granted to Sandwell Council, supported by West Midlands Police, in June.

To bring the injunction into force, papers had to be served on all parties – which has now been done after the head of the family John Cassidy was physically served in Warwickshire.

If any of the Cassidy family or persons unknown breach the injunction order they will be in contempt of court.

The injunction also forbids anyone setting up an unauthorised encampment on 17 Sandwell Council-owned sites including parks, playing fields and open spaces.

Anyone breaching the order could face two years in jail, a fine or have their assets seized.

Councillor Paul Moore, cabinet member for regeneration and investment, said: "I'd like to thank the police for their assistance and the lengths they have gone to to successfully serve this injunction on John Cassidy.

John Cassidy is now banned from the whole of Sandwell, while the rest of the family are prohibited from setting up unauthorised encampments, causing damage to barriers and fly-tipping anywhere in Sandwell.

Judge McKenna granted the injunction based on substantial evidence submitted by the council and West Midlands Police.

Hunt is on for mystery canal boat owner

The mystery boat which has been reported blocking a public walkway in Vittoria Street, Smethwick

USUALLY it's mattresses, bags of rubbish or burnt out cars that get left on the side of the road.

But for one industrial estate in Smethwick it's something a lot larger and a lot harder to shift.

Mystery surrounds the appearance of a black and red canal boat which is believed to have been parked up outside businesses for a month. A council team have been trying to locate its owner in an effort to rid the estate of the boat which blocks off a public walkway.

Sandwell Council's cabinet member for highways and environment Councillor David Hosell said: "This is one of the more unusual things we've found blocking a footpath – our wardens are more used to abandoned vehicles and fly-tipping.

"It's in a fairly secluded location in Vittoria Street in Smethwick, not too far from the canal.

"We believe it's been there for about a month until it was reported to the council.

"We're now trying to trace the owner to get it moved, but if we can't, we will have to find a way of moving it and storing it until we can find who it belongs to."

Sandwell Highways have also launched an appeal for further information about the whereabouts of its owner on their Twitter account.

Scheme for expansion of junction step nearer

MAJOR plans to expand M6 Junction 10 and combat congestion have taken a step forward this week.

The £64.5m scheme has been submitted in a planning application to Walsall Council by Highways England.

The move would see two new bridges built on the busy roundabout, increasing the number of lanes from two to four. If approved, work could start next year with completion aimed for 2020. About 8,000 vehicles pass through the junction every hour during peak periods. The design will increase its capacity to 10,500.

A spokesman for Highways England said: "Walsall Planning Authority is required to undertake a formal period of public consultation. Anyone can respond to a planning consultation, even if they are not directly affected. If we are successful in gaining planning approval, we will work up a final detailed design of the scheme. We anticipate that construction of the scheme will start in 2018 and will be open to traffic during 2020."

Problems with traffic at the junction mean that the connecting Black Country Route, A454, is one of the most congested roads in the country.

Councillor quits his UKIP role

THE only UKIP councillor in Sandwell has quit the party to become an independent. Councillor Philip Garrett, who represents Princes End, had been the sole voice representing the party on the council, which is dominated by Labour.

Councillor Garrett's decision means Labour is now the only political party represented at the authority, although there are several independent councillors.

UKIP's support nosedived at the General Election in June. Pete Durnell, who is head of UKIP in Sandwell and was the party's candidate for West Midlands Mayor said: "It's obviously disappointing but he has done everything he can."

CBSO to perform Creation twice

THE City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra is to give two performances of Haydn's The Creation next month.

The concerts in Symphony Hall on September 21 at 7.30pm and September 23 at 7pm, will see the CBSO Chorus in action as well. Tickets are from the box office on 0121 780 3333.

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£8 million investment to bring 100 new homes

PART of a town will be transformed with a plan to build more than 100 homes confirmed following an £8 million investment.

The funding will ensure that the first part of a two-phase development at the former Crocketts Lane Sandwell college campus in Smethwick can progress.

The development is part of a masterplan which could eventually see more than 5,000 homes built across Sandwell and Birmingham.

The plan has been launched by the West Midlands Combined Authority, in conjunction with Sandwell Council and Birmingham City Council.

Leaders are seeking to attain Housing Zone status from the government which could see the homes delivered more quickly. Part of the plan will also see homes will spring up around the new Midland Metropolitan Hospital in Grove Lane, Smethwick.

The project has been welcomed by councillors who say that the development will 'bring the old and the new together.'

Councillor Richard Marshall, Sandwell cabinet member for Leisure said: "I have been involved in the project right from the start – when the site was first becoming derelict and prone to vandalism and fires. I think it's absolutely fantastic. I used to go to college at that site so it has special importance to me."

Aluminium firm death is probed

AN investigation has been launched after the death of a worker at an aluminium firm in Oldbury. Stuart Towns, aged 34, died following an incident at Alutrade in Tat Bank Road.

West Midlands Police said the man's death was not thought to be suspicious and that an investigation had been launched by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

Andrew Towns, a director at Alutrade, said: "We had an incident on Monday, July 24 which led to a fatality. Alutrade takes the safety and wellbeing of its employees very seriously and is co-operating fully with the police and the Health and Safety Executive. Our thoughts are with the family and loved ones at this difficult time."

Dogs on parade

DOGS of all breeds and sizes will be in the spotlight during an event at a beauty spot. All About Dogs is taking place at Warley Woods in Smethwick on September 10. For more information see www.warleywoods.org.uk.

Leaders to meet at growth conference

The conference due at the Vox centre

COUNCIL bosses from Wolverhampton and Birmingham will be joining West Midlands Metro Mayor Andy Street at a major conference next month to plan future growth for the region.

The West Midlands Forum for Growth Conference will bring together leaders from the public and private sectors to debate details of a "route map for growth and development in the West Midlands".

Building new homes, regenerating derelict sites and improving transport links will all be on the agenda as hundreds of delegates from across the West Midlands meet to try and identify the key issues to create growth in the region – and the problems that could get in the way.

In addition to West Midlands Mayor Andy Street, speakers will include the chairman of the Midlands Engine initiative, Sir John Peace, and the chairman of the Government's Homes and Communities Agency, Sir Eddie Lister. The conference will also showcase six major West Midlands regeneration projects worth a total of more than £4 billion, incorporating around 10,000 new homes and two million square metres of mixed developments.

The event takes place on September 6 at the Vox Conference Centre, at Restorts World Birmingham, with around 350 people already signed up to attend.

Sir Eddie Lister, Tony Pidgley from housebuilders Berkely Group and Birmingham council's regeneration director Waheed Nazir will be talking about how to provide more homes in the region, with the new chief executive of the West Midlands Combined Authority, Deborah Cadman.

Attempted murder case jury can't reach verdict

A JURY failed to reach a verdict over a man accused of attempting to murder his brother.

The five men and seven women acquitted Gareth Cable of having an article with a blade or a point – a Stanley knife.

The judge discharged jury members after they failed to reach a verdict on the attempted murder charge. He was accused of pulling out a pink handled knife during an argument and then trying to kill his brother James Cable during the 'frenzied' attack at their sister's Walsall home. The 41-year-old, who denied the offences when he took the stand, must now wait to discover if the Crown Prosecution Service will pursue a retrial.

The jury were discharged on Thursday after deliberating for eight hours' and 15 minutes at Wolverhampton Crown Court. During the trial, the prosecution alleged Gareth Cable attacked his brother in the hallway of their sister's home on the Yew Tree Estate. Two police officers were present when he brandished the knife, pushing his brother into the hall and jabbing him to the face with it as he lay on the floor, prosecutor Mr Dean Kershaw said.

The defendant plunged the blade deep through his brother's hand and slashed him across his face at the Birchfield Way property on February 23, the court heard.

But giving evidence during his trial, Gareth James claimed he was not trying to kill his brother when he slashed his face and body, revealing he only wanted to 'hurt him'.

He alleged the pink handled knife he used to deliver the blows was not his and said he spotted it in the waistband of James Cables' Adidas tracksuit bottoms. The defendant said he went outside as police arrived and grabbed the blade from the 26-year-old before they wrestled and he stabbed his brother.

He went on to say he had picked up a black handled knife from the kitchen after fearing for his safety when James Cable started banging on the front door and threatening to shoot their sister. The defendant, of Norton Crescent, Bordesley Green, Birmingham, will be sentenced at the court next Friday if the Crown Prosecution Service do not pursue a retrial.

Wall is rebuilt after 3-year battle

Robert Mooney with the wall in Stacey Close, Old Hill, with its chainmaking pattern now in place

A 12ft wall that collapsed three years ago has finally been rebuilt, with an eye-catching design paying tribute to Cradley Heath's chainmaking history.

The eyesore wall fell into Stacey Close, Old Hill, in June 2014 and has cost council bosses more than £200,000 to rebuild. Resident Robert Mooney, from Clyde Street, which the wall backs onto, has campaigned for it to be rebuilt since its collapse.

He said: "I am delighted that at long last it is finally complete. I asked if they could put a chain design in honour of the chainmakers workshop in my back garden – so it was a nod to that too. Sutton Coldfield Construction who did the building were really nice and did a fantastic job."

The remains of the former wall had orange barriers in place around it after it fell down, but despite several visits from council officers up until 2016, still no work was carried out.

It collapsed due to wear and tear but was blighted by bags of rubbish and broken furniture in the former alleyway besides it, that was covered in rubble following the collapse.

However, earlier this year council bosses said they were looking to appoint a contractor to undertake the 'major structural works'.

Works to the rear gardens was

NEWS IN BRIEF

Taxi repairs urged in wake of checks

MORE taxi drivers have been told to make repairs to their vehicles following a series of spot-checks which were carried out across the streets of Sandwell.

Eight drivers were told they needed to take action, including replacing brake pads, lightbulbs and a tyre.

One was issued with a delayed prohibition to get 'an excessively worn' universal joint fixed.

However, 14 out of 22 drivers passed the test with no faults.

The blitz comes after it was revealed last week that a fifth of taxis stopped in Sandwell last year were found to be unfit for the road.

King of blues in wait for singer

BLUES rockers King King have rescheduled their autumn tour for the new year due to the ongoing throat condition suffered by singer Alan Nimmo.

They had been due to play Birmingham's Town Hall on October 17, but due to Nimmo's health they will now do so on Thursday, January 18, 2018.

A statement from Nimmo on the band's Facebook page said: "Unfortunately, it is now clear that in order for my voice to fully recover I need to undertake an extended break from performance."

Cake sale boost for good causes

A CAKE sale and raffle hosted by a Black Country mayor has raised hundreds of pounds for charity.

The event held by Mayor of Sandwell, councillor Ahmadul Haque, raised £351 for the Midlands Air Ambulance and the NHS Your Trust Charity.

The money was raised by selling cakes donated by supermarkets and made by volunteers.

A sale was held to flog the tasty treats which saw special guest Blind Dave Heeley, Freeman of the Borough, attend.

Games event to relieve board-dom

A GAMES event is being held for the deaf. Hosted by Sandwell Deaf Community Association the event will take place September 1 at Sign Cafe on Dagger Lane, West Bromwich.

Those attending will be invited to play cards, uno, dominoes and other games between 12pm and 3pm.

Food and drink will also be served throughout.

To confirm attendance visit: www.facebook.com/pg/deaf.sandwell/events

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Exams? No really it's advice that is failing

GIVING advice to parents of teenagers whose exam results weren't what they would have hoped, psychologist Elle Boag of Birmingham City University says the worst possible thing they could say is: "You have done your best."

Really? That's the very worst thing a parent can say? Because I would have thought "You're a failure, you've let us all down, it's time you moved out, and we've booked you a room at the YMCA" would give it a very decent run for its money.

Apparently, telling children they have done their best implies that their best isn't good enough, that they got the grades they deserved. She suggests it is more helpful to simply say: "It is what it is."

Well, I'm sorry, but I can't think of any circumstances where it is acceptable to say "It is what it is". What, exactly does it mean? It is just a jumble of words constructed into what passes for a sentence. It is a hateful, pointless cliché that has crept into common vocabulary over the past few years. It is one short step away from "We are where we are."

If somebody said "It is what it is" to console me, it would be tempting to reply: "I might have failed my exams, I might have failed in life, I have probably sentenced myself to a lifetime of drudgery. But at least I can string a sentence together without sounding like a reject from a late-night reality TV series."

For some reason, I don't usually get much sympathy.

❒❒❒

OUR hospitals are at breaking point, squeezed in a perfect storm of an ageing population, expensive treatments and squeezed public finances. At least that's what we're always told.

So you would think NHS bigwigs would roll out the red carpet for a few community-minded lads who dressed up in silly outfits for a sponsored bed push, raising £2,500 for their local hospital.

Instead Jan Ditheridge, the chief executive of the NHS Trust which runs Ludlow hospital, refused to accept the money, because the men did the bed push dressed up as female nurses. Ms Ditheridge thought it "inappropriate, highly sexualised, and demeaning."

Now I think it takes a very vivid imagination to view 10 burly lads dressed up as Hattie Jacques as "highly sexualised", but each to their own.

Still, I suppose she should be congratulated to sticking to her principles. Even to the cost of the patients she is supposed to serve.

Charles royally backed as we reach THAT anniversary

Charles the cherishable? Can the nation get behind their next monarch?

Dame Helen Ghosh – not really maintaining the trust of middle England's twin set set

Diana – 20 years on, but aren't we all a little weary of the ongoing hype over her death

Long live king, but leave Diana in peace

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

AFTER an opinion poll this week revealed public disappointment with Prince Charles, the Windsor spin-machine rolled out Dickie Arbiter, former Palace press secretary to tell the nation: "It is time we learnt to cherish him." Well, maybe it is. But the snag with Charles in his up-and-down relationship with us plebs is that just when we're about to cherish him, he does something uncherishable.

TAKE his affair with Camilla which led to the break-up of his marriage and, ultimately, the death of his sons' mother. Arbiter insists: "To chastise the Prince unendingly for his relationship with Camilla is deeply unfair. If anything, he will be a modern king, with a deeper trove of life experience, because of it." Really? So cheating on Diana will make Charles a better king? Whatever we may think about HRH, does anyone cherish Dickie Arbiter?

THE good people of Cromer will no doubt be reassured that the invasion, riots, rampaging mobs, blatant theft, road blocking and general thuggishness that forced their little east-coast resort into lockdown at the weekend was, according to the police, merely "low-level disorder." You can't help wondering whether the cops would have used that description if it had happened in, say, the chief constable's front garden.

"LOW level." I can't recall weasel words ever being quite so weasely. And despite two days of anarchy, anguish and distress, not a single arrest was made. If this outrage had been caused by football fans or motorbike gangs, would the police response have been the same? Of course not. They would have turned up mob-handed and the cells would be full. So why the "low-level" approach? Possibly because those involved were travellers The courts have ruled that some travellers are a separate ethnic group and you can't help feeling that when the word "ethnic" crops up, the authorities like to look the other way. That restaurant being invaded by 40 burly blokes stealing booze from the fridge? It's just low-level disorder. Nothing to see here, folks.

AFTER a season steeped in controversy over Gay Pride badges, altered flapjack recipes and dropping the "Easter" from egg hunts, National Trust head Dame Helen Ghosh admits she may have alienated "some of our perhaps more traditional visitors." She still doesn't get it, does she? Ghosh seems to imply that "traditional" visitors are some cranky minority within the NT. The truth is that if you take away the traditional folk, there is no National Trust. In the main it is supported, staffed and visited by over-50s, middle-class English people whose only interest is to see grand old houses and beautiful gardens. They are not some radical hip-hop, happening youth group and they don't like being made to feel uncomfortable about sex, racism or slavery. If NT folk were asked how NT properties could be improved, they would probably opt for a good cup of tea and more lavatories, not a lecture on Gay Pride.

JUDGING by the funniest one-liners at the Edinburgh Festival this week, you can only conclude that funny isn't as funny as it used to be.

DOES anyone seriously believe that up to a dozen young Muslim men and the local imam spent six months planning a major bomb attack at their headquarters in the little Spanish town of Ripoll and nobody suspected anything? Pull the other one. It reminds me of the Troubles in Northern Ireland. Only a tiny percentage of the Catholic community were IRA guerillas. But for every IRA gunman there were dozens of folks who would never dream of informing the cops. A survey among British Muslims for Channel 4 last year revealed that while 96 per cent were against terrorist violence, only 34 per cent would inform the police if they thought somebody they knew was getting involved with people who support terrorism in Syria. And in Ripoll? One resident told the world's media: "We are in a state of shock." I dare say some are more shocked than others

I WROTE about a colleague who took his three-year-old daughter through a car wash and told her it was Alton Towers. It reminded a reader of deception at the dinner table one Christmas during the austere 1940s. The parents thought the roast would fool the kids but one of them noticed that the "chicken" had four legs. A rabbit.

THE irony now is that chicken is everyday nosh while rabbit has become a delicacy.

YES, it was a terrible tragedy and yes, she was a good dresser. But it was 20 years ago and I cannot be the only one to have reached Diana-exhaustion on this over-hyped anniversary. We have seen and heard quite enough authorised and unauthorised tapes, gossip, video and books. Can the nation cope with another 'Diana – Queen of Style' supplement? I think not.

TALKING POINT

Nothing personal, but this is too far

IN these times of social media frenzy, we're all supposed to have as many 'friends' as possible, or at least 'likes'.

But what about the people who don't want to join in the self-congratulatory mutual appreciation society that has such a tight grip on the internet?

And what if you can't find anyone to be your friend?

As usual, Talking Point can come to your rescue, and in this case the solution is very often right under your nose.

I refer to the personification of such items as documents, motor vehicles and even kitchenware. As our world becomes ever more touchy-feely (without the actual physical contact, of course) it would appear that it's not enough for instructions and terms and conditions to remain plain and simple. No, they have to be given a personality all of their own.

Take for example this message on a receipt: "I'm important please keep me safe – you need me for collection!" Is it a cry for help or, as the exclamation mark suggests, a nudge in the ribs to remind the customer to take it with them to the shop? And don't you dare think you can get away with not acknowledging your recently acquired friend, as this instruction shows: "Say hello to your new contactless card". So, all of a sudden, a piece of plastic takes on a life of its own.

Passers-by can't escape this patronising drivel either. Just consider this command, spotted on the forecourt of a car dealership: "Take me home with you today". What, without paying for the car, or even inquiring within?

To cap it all (no pun intended) the most excruciating of all were the care and use instructions for a food container: "Wash me first before you use me, please, I can either be washed in the dishwasher (top rack only) or in warm, soapy water."

It's the "top rack only" directive that gets me, as if the container will be watching your every move when it comes to washing the damn thing, although it does say "please". I'm all for getting an important message across in the most effective way but surely this latest form of communication has gone too far.

Not only is it irritating, it's also making fools of us for assuming that we don't notice how widespread it has become.

Mind you, I think it's only fair to give that food container one more moment of glory: "Ensure I'm thoroughly dried after being washed."

At least it stops short of saying "and then tuck me up nicely in the cupboard". Now, reader, say goodbye to Talking Point for another week. Bye bye Talking Point. "Bye bye reader".

STEVE PARLETT

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Through our programmes, we are committed to providing more opportunities for children and young people to excel, achieve and have fun.

NATALIE WHIPDAY
England and Wales
Director, The Boys' Brigade
Hemel Hempstead

No change on track for railway

WHAT a pity the new franchise for the Midlands wasn't British Rail, instead of yet another train operating company running a railway not for the customers, but the profit margin.

As much as I read about investment this is always one of those things that I find 'wait and see' – for usually what we see is a coat of paint, a few new uniforms and a lot of talk.

I want my railway back in our hands, not in a foreign banker's portfolio. Of course, it's good to see London Midland go, but then we had Central Trains, and others and all have told us of the bright new future, and none of them have fulfilled their promise. So will the new operators be any better? I doubt it.

S T VAUGHAN
Yardley Wood

Thanks for kindness at Sainsbury's

COULD I give thanks to the person, unknown to me, who kindly handed in my bag in to Sainsbury's in Blackheath, after I'd inadvertently left it outside on the bench?

Thank you Express & Star, August 15, such honesty is becoming rarer these days, sadly.

If not for this person's honesty I would have been without my money, smartphone, newish glasses for computer lessons and house keys.

And, most importantly, my dog Rory would have been still waiting for me to return to the house that day, later on in the afternoon to feed him tea!

I'd also like to say thank you also to Sainsbury's and the Brookfleet cab taxi driver for their help, I've asthma.

J ADAMS
Rowley Regis
Sandwell

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
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EMAIL
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Raise awareness of polio charity's work

SEPTEMBER 5 is the International Day of Charity.

It is a fantastic opportunity for smaller charities like the British Polio Fellowship to raise awareness of the work we do to support 120,000 people in the UK with Post Polio Syndrome, a debilitating condition which affects Polio survivors years after contracting the virus.

In 2013 we created PPS Day to raise awareness of this little known and little understood condition. Buildings are lighting up on November 2 in British Polio's blue and green colours all over Britain, with landmark buildings in Northern Ireland, Scotland and England already participating. Campaigning to spread awareness of PPS is one of our primary aims, and PPS Day is a big day in our calendar. If you can help, please call 0800 043 1935.

TED HILL MBE
CEO, The British Polio Fellowship

Benefits horseplay

PENSIONERS pay in for 50 years then decide whether to heat or eat. The disabled are refused benefits and told to find work. A mother of eight gets £500 a week benefits and wants to buy a horse. It may be 'her' money, but surely, benefits are to make life a bit easier, to say buy a bus pass or take a taxi. It should not be for luxuries like a horse. It is a pity the DWP cannot dock some and she could have a night mare. Pun intended.

ROBERT WHITE
Wigmore

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Dame Julie Walters backs Brum's bid for the games

HOLLYWOOD A-listers Julie Walters and David Harewood have joined scores of top sports stars in backing Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games.

Dame Julie Walters was born in Birmingham and raised in Smethwick. The two-time Academy Award nominee has starred in films including Billy Elliot, Mamma Mia! and the Harry Potter series. She said: "Birmingham is a brilliant city, full of energy and lively people.

"It's well-known across the world both for sport and culture and it would be my city of choice to host the Commonwealth Games in 2022."

Harewood, who starred in Homeland and The Night Manager, as well as Hollywood movies including Blood Diamond, has been one of the longest-running supporters of the bid.

He said: "I support Birmingham's bid for the 2022 Commonwealth Games. What a diverse, beautiful, fantastic city, this will be the hub of energy here in the Midlands."

Announced

Sports stars from across 17 sports, including all Commonwealth Games sports announced as part of Birmingham's bid, have also thrown their weight behind the proposals.

International sports icons including Sir Mo Farah, Usain Bolt, Yohan Blake, Christine Ohuruogu, Adam Peaty, Ellie Simmonds, Don Quarrie, Ian Bell, Baroness Tanni Grey Thompson, Chrissie Wellington and Hakeen 'The Dream' Olajuwon are among the athletes who are supporting Birmingham. Walsall's own Ellie Simmonds, a five-time Paralympic swimming champion, said: "The Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games and the Sandwell Aquatics Centre will inspire the next generation of swimmers."

Safety tips on barbecues and your pet

PET owners are being advised to take extra precautions if cooking outside this bank holiday weekend to ensure their pets stay safe.

Advice issued by vet charity PDSA includes not giving pets any scraps off the barbecue which could cause them to be ill, making sure any leftover food and rubbish is securely and safely thrown away, keep lighter fluid out of reach, keep pets away from open flames and ensure pets have access to shade and plenty of fresh water.

PDSA vet Rebecca Ashman, said: "Pets are brought in having swallowed objects such as corn on the cob cores, suffering from burns if they've gotten too close to the barbecue, and can also come in because of heat stroke in the hot weather."

For more information and advice, visit www.pdsa.org.uk.

Airline to recruit more than 100 at airport

Jet2.com launched new routes from Birmingham Airport earlier this year

LEISURE airline Jet2.com is taking on more than 100 new staff at its newest base at Birmingham Airport as part of a major recruitment drive. It will be holding roadshows across the UK to fill more than 1,700 pilot, cabin crew and ground operations roles.

One of the recruitment roadshows will be at Hilton Birmingham Metropole at the National Exhibition Centre on Wednesday, September 6, from 10am to 5.30pm The announcement comes on the back of a successful recruitment campaign for this summer, which includes flights from new bases at Birmingham and London Stansted.

This expansion is set to continue in summer 2018, with the company having 9.8 million seats on sale – a 13 per cent capacity increase. It includes almost a million seats to 30 destinations from Birmingham Airport.

The roadshow has been designed to support the recruitment of pilot, cabin crew and ground operations positions at Birmingham as the company continues to grow. The roadshow will offer the chance to meet members of the Jet2.com team, receive expert advice and information about the various roles on offer with an informal chat.

The ground operations team will be responsible for ensuring that flights depart safely and on time.

To see all the jobs available visit http://www.jet2careers.com/

Bollard at block of flats is removed

A BOLLARD placed at the entrance of a block of flats housing up to 80 elderly residents have been removed after fears they could block access for emergency vehicles.

More than 100 people signed a petition to see the bollards removed at the entrance of Russell House in Wednesbury. Council bosses removed them last week after increasing pressure from ward councillors, who also backed the campaign.

Councillor Hughes said: "I feel good about it, I think its going to be really good for the residents. We had a meeting regarding this, they're going to be Tarmacking the front area so cars will be able to pull on and drop people off.

"The front, a lot of people use it for taxis, old people in the blocks they come back with taxis, now they're having to to walk round to get in.

"We have had a couple of ambulances that couldn't get there and they had to go through the back doors."

The bollard was said to have been in place for up to six months before a petition was put together and backed by the councillors.

Councillor Kerrie Carmichael, Sandwell's cabinet member for housing, said: "We have removed a collapsible bollard from outside Russell House following concerns raised by residents."

Leisure trust is given accolade

A LEISURE trust has renewed its accreditation for being a high performer in people management.

Staff are celebrating after Sandwell Leisure Trust maintained its Investors in People Standard. SLT originally got the accolade in 2004 and has held the title every year since. The accreditation is valid for three years.

Fly-by says hey Ron, can't catch me

A heron watches a dragonfly pass at Sandwell Valley in this brilliant photo taken by Darren Littlehales

THIS stunning photo shows a heron soaking up some sunshine at a beauty spot.

The bird has raised its head to catch some rays on what must have been a rare sunny day we all missed this summer.

A darting dragonfly was just inches away from the heron's beak as it struck a pose at Sandwell Valley RSPB Reserve.

The photo was framed by Darren Littlehales from Birmingham.

As well as herons, Sandwell Valley is also home to various other birds – including blue tits, great tits, greenfinches, bullfinches, even some parakeets have made the nature reserve their home.

This year, RSPB bosses said there have also been sightings of a great spotted woodpecker, as well as sedge warblers and reed warblers.

Burglar who spat at officer is jailed

A BURGLAR who targeted a home while a family was asleep inside has been jailed for nearly three years.

Mark Mansell spat at a police officer when he was arrested and smeared a police cell with his own excrement. Mansell burgled the house while at least three people were inside, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

By David Cosgrove

The raid took place at Garrett Street, West Bromwich, on July 18.

Mr Richard McConaghy, prosecuting, said the family came down the next morning to find their property had been targeted. Mansell took a wallet containing, as well as a mobile phone battery pack. He also made off with a Samsung tablet and charger – as well as using car keys to open a car, which he searched and then relocked before returning the keys inside. Mansell was arrested on July 20 and taken to Oldbury custody block.

Mr McConaghy said: "Initially, he had to be restrained in his cell, then he said he would calm down. He was brought some food but within minutes he started throwing the food all over the cell and smeared it on the CCTV camera and viewing hatch. He also cut himself with his plastic spoon on the chest and wrist."

Mansell, 25, then defecated in the corner of his cell and 'smeared his own excrement on the CCTV camera and walls of the cell'.

Mr Oliver Grimwood, defending, said: "In his mind he saw an opportunity to provide extra money, with his first child coming up." Mansell of Old Meeting Street, West Bromwich, admitted burglary, two counts of criminal damage and assaulting an officer at an earlier hearing. Judge Amjad Nawaz jailed him for 34 months.

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From Ozzy, to Jimmy Page, to Phil Lynott, Mick Wall has met them all

Not so sweet, Jon Bon Jovi

Sharon and Ozzy, with his metal bolt

Legendary lothario, Phil Lynott

Led Zep during their beard-wearing stage, before Mick met Jimmy

Rick Parfitt, who loved his cars

Wall of rock spills beans on legends

Legendary rock writer MICK WALL tells the Chronicle what it's like hanging out with legends such as Guns 'n' Roses, Led Zeppelin, Black Sabbath and Lou Reed as a preview to his spoken word evening at Bilston's Robin 2 in December.

So, what is it like to hang out with rock stars? Well, that depends on which rock star you happen to be hanging out with. In the case of Ozzy Osbourne, for example, it has always been very easy.

If you recall Ozzy from his hit TV reality show, The Osbournes, you'll have a good idea already. The main word is 'funny'. Ozzy is hilarious. He can't help it. He just is. A very dry sense of humour, delivered with that singsong Brummie accent.

From the first time I met Ozzy, at a rehearsal studio in London in 1980, down on his luck at the time after being sacked from Black Sabbath for being "too crazy" even for them, all I seemed to do was laugh. For years his wife Sharon and I used to joke that Ozzy should have his own comedy show on telly, never imagining that in the future such a thing as 'reality TV' would exist.

The last time I saw Ozzy was when he and Sabbath played in Birmingham earlier this year. Ozzy was staying in such an enormous hotel suite it came with its own butler. He hadn't changed one bit.

"Bloody hell, it's Mick!" he boomed across the vast space of his 'reception' room. "Come and feel the bolt in me neck!"

He was referring to the slab of surgical steel that now sits pinning his shoulder together, the result of his infamous quad bike accident. "Now I really am the godfather of heavy metal," he laughed. Not all rock stars are as good fun as Ozzy, though.

Some, like Jon Bon Jovi, are much more serious offstage than you would ever imagine from their upbeat image. I knew Jon before he got famous and he was like a kid in a sweet shop. Then after hits like 'Livin' On A Prayer' turned him into a superstar, he seemed to live life with a permanent frown on his face.

Then there are the deeply mysterious ones like Led Zeppelin's leader and guitarist Jimmy Page. On a visit to his mansion one day, Jimmy took me into a room where he sat in an armchair. Like some James Bond villain, he had a secret panel of buttons built into it.

Jimmy pushed one and the opposite wall slid back to reveal four massive oil paintings. "What do you make of these?" he asked, nonchalantly. I walked over and had a closer look. All the paintings seemed to depict similar scenes. Some sort of lavishly depicted ancient garden in which there were tiny forms of hundreds of humans writhed in pain and torment.

"Very nice," I said with a straight face. Then he took me outside a showed me the garden. It was about the size of the West Midlands.

For most rock stars it really is all about girls and cars, though.

Phil and I would walk into a pub and he would tell me to grab a table and wait for him. I'd sit down while he stood at the bar, jacket collar up, stooped over looking glum. Within minutes a young woman would walk over and ask him what was wrong, why he was so down? Phil would sigh. Then another young woman, sometimes two or three would join him and want to know the same thing.

He would buy a tray of drinks and lead the girls over to the table where I was sitting. I would be expected to help keep the talk going while Phil would lead the girls outside one by one and, well, get to know them better.

When it comes to cars, it's hard to think of any rock star I have known that has been more obsessed than the late Status Quo guitarist Rick Parfitt. He would ring me sometimes and hold his phone next to whatever new revving engine he'd just acquired – could be a brand new Porsche, or a vintage Rolls Royce. "Just listen to her purr," he'd say, almost purring himself. He'd soon grow bored with them though and go and buy another.

I recall one occasion when I visited him at his riverside home in London, and he took me to see his brand new Bentley Continental. He proudly showed me around the car, told me the whole story about how he was one of the first 50 people in the world to have one.

I rang him a couple of weeks later and asked how he was getting on with his new car.

"Oh, that," he said. "I sold it. Bought myself a brand new Merc." Or was it another Roller? I can't remember now. Whatever it was, it would definitely have purred though.

● Mick Wall presents his 'Wall Of Sound' at Bilston's Robin 2 on December 5 and tickets, priced £8, are available from www.therobin.co.uk or by calling (01902) 401211.

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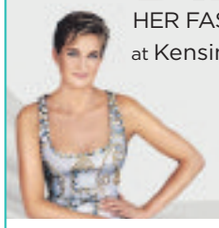

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Alleged gang members named by police in blitz

THESE 18 alleged gang members have been hit with powerful injunctions in what is believed to be the biggest move of its kind in the UK to tackle gun and drug crime.

The men, including one from Walsall and one from Wolverhampton, were branded 'dangerous and a menace to ordinary people' as they were banned from large parts of Birmingham and from associating with each other.

The men include Wolverhampton drug dealer Ishmail Lee, who claimed to be a mobile barber, but was actually running a drugs supply operation across the West Midlands

Lee, aged 29, from Leicester Street, Whitmore Reans, claimed benefits while dressing in designer clothes.

Conspiracy

He was arrested in March last year and later jailed for 14 years. Police found thousands of pounds worth of designer gear, as well as £20,000 cash and cocaine worth £2,000.

Lee was convicted of two counts of conspiracy to supply cocaine and heroin following a trial.

The court orders, which were secured after more than 80 witnesses gave evidence at Birmingham Crown Court, even restrict the vehicles and mobile phones used by the men.

The suspected gangsters are also banned from making music videos promoting violence or crime.

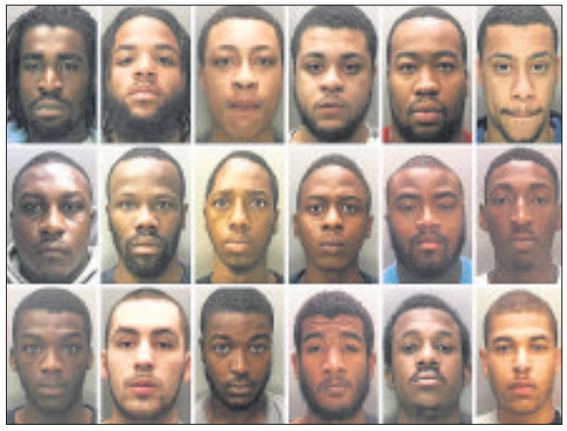
They face arrest if they breach the injunctions, and police issued their mugshots as they appealed for anyone who sees the men associating with each other to call police.

They are banned from entering areas of Birmingham including the city centre, Handsworth, Newtown, Winson Green and Lozells for the next two years.

The move was triggered by a spate of around 20 gun crimes involving Birmingham gangs during the summer of 2015 and early 2016.

Det Sgt Ian Comfort, from West Midlands Police CID Prevent Team, said: "This is relatively new legislation and we believe that securing final full injunctions on such a large number of gang members is a UK first.

"The injunctions are applied for in the civil court in addition to sentences handed out by the criminal court for offences. They are an additional measure to help control the offenders and keep the community safe."



The faces of the men hit by the injunctions. The men are: Ishmail Lee, aged 29, from Wolverhampton; Ashai Grey, 23, from Walsall; Naasir Francis, 19, from Nechells; Baboucar Huma, 19, from Handsworth; Akeen Ivy-Foster, 20, from Springhill; Ravelle Hutchinson, 20, from Winson Green; Tesfa Bernard-Wheeler, 21, from Hockley; Rayani Sutherland, 21, from Aston; Omarni Bernard-Sewell, 21, from Selly Oak; Lawrence Morgan, 21, from Nechells; Jerome Jones, 21, from Erdington; Jerome Christie, 21, from Nechells; Reial Phillips, 21, from Winson Green; Ushane Jeffers, 23, from Newtown; Kayne Robinson, 23, from Springhill; Jacob Brown, 24, from Handsworth; Cash Wallace, 24, from Winson Green; Isaac Duffus, 28, from Erdington

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Pritam tunes in for dream job after role

FORMER radio presenter Pritam John never thought volunteering at the Trust last year would lead him to his dream job with the NHS as a medical specialist.

But for Pritam, aged 52, that's exactly what happened – and now he's working with the organisation in a full-time role in the pathology department.

And it's all thanks to a chance meeting with Liza Gill, the volunteering co-ordinator, who told him about the wealth of opportunities available at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust.

The dad-of-two had been struggling to find a permanent role in the NHS after he arrived from his native India, where he was a qualified medical specialist.

Environment

Pritam, from Oldbury, explained: "I came here in 2001, with my wife who is a nurse. I had worked in the pathology department at the Christian Medical College and Hospital in India. I had always been in the hospital environment throughout my working life.

"So when I came to the UK with my wife, I knew I wanted to work for the NHS.

"But when I arrived, my qualifications at that time were not recognised in the UK, and it meant I was unable to apply for medical roles.

"Although I was disappointed, I knew that if I kept trying, I would achieve my goal. Deep in my heart, I wanted to work in a hospital where I could make a difference to peoples' lives."

It was when cricket fan Pritam started working as a radio presenter for a Birmingham-based international station that he met Liza.

He added: "When she spoke to me about the Trust, I didn't hesitate to sign up a volunteer. In a short time I was offered a placement with the phlebotomy team and I worked on reception for four hours a week.

"I really enjoyed working with the team and everyone was so lovely and friendly. I liked helping people, even just by showing them where to go or what to do. I also learned a lot from the mandatory training that the Trust gave me."

His work within the department left his manager Sukvinder Atkar impressed. "The next thing I knew I was offered a role on the bank, which fills temporary vacancies. It was like a dream," he said.

"After six months working bank shifts, a vacancy became available for a medical specialist. I applied and was successful. It really was a dream come true. Now I'm working full-time and I love the job."

Pritam has high hopes working for the Trust.

He added: "I would like to do more training and explore further opportunities within the Pathology department. I want to focus on helping people."

Asked if he would recommend other people to volunteer at the Trust, he beamed: "Absolutely, this is a great place to volunteer and you meet so many people from different walks of life. I have six friends who are now volunteering here after I told them about the opportunities available and they all love it."

NHS HEROES

ONCE again we focus some of our time on the quiet heroes of the NHS, from a wide variety of backgrounds doing a wide variety of jobs.

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Allens Sports and Social Club
Newall Street, @ 9.00am, 11.00am, 1.00pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Contact Lorretta 07968 656634

GREAT BRIDGE
St Peter's Church Hall,
Whitehall Road, @ 5.30pm and 7:30pm
Contact Jodie 07886 426429

WEDNESBURY
Central Methodist Church (Wesley Centre)
Spring Head @ 7.30pm
Contact Michelle 07857 280882

OLDBURY
St James C of E Church,
Shelsley Avenue, @ 7.00pm
Contact Claire 07539 950447

OLDBURY
Church on the Rock,
Warley Road, Rood End @ 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Contact Lorraine 07434 728698

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Turners Hill, B65 9DP @ 7.00pm
Contact Sarah 07875 445462

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****NEW CONSULTANT****

BRADLEY
St Martin's Church
Slater Street, @ 9.30am AND 11.30am
Contact Audrey 07500 057769

OLDBURY
Warley Baptist Church,
Castle Road East, @ 9.30am, 3.30pm, 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Contact Julie 07505 084916

OLDBURY
Church on the Rock,
Warley Road, Rood End @ 9.15am and 11.15am
Contact Lorraine 07434 728698

WEST BROMWICH
West Bromwich Community Centre,
Gayton Road, @ 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Contact Jodie 07886 426429

*****NEW CONSULTANT 5/9/17*****

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West Bromwich Leisure Centre,
Moor Street, @ 9.30am, 3.30pm, 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Contact Mel 07935 447265

WEDNESBURY
Woods Methodist Church
Coronation Road, Woods Estate, @ 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Contact Karen 07547 515345

TIPTON
Tipton Christian Churchw
Waterloo Street, 3.00 pm, 5.00pm and 7.00pm
Contact Lisa 07514 607650

OLDBURY
Sainsbury's, Freeth Street,
@ 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Contact Ann 07815 643963

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26 Rowley Village, B65 9AT 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Contact Kenton 07982 408088

WEDNESDAY

WEST BROMWICH
West Bromwich Community Centre,
Gayton Road, @ 9.30am
Contact Jodie 07886 426429

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Darlaston Sports & Social Club Ltd,
16 The Leys, @ 9.30am
Contact Lesley 01922 634883

SMETHWICK
Dorothy Parkes Centre,
Church Road, 9.30am, 11.30am, 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Contact Mel 07935 447265

WEDNESBURY
Woods Methodist Church
Coronation Road, Woods Estate, @ 9.30am
Contact Karen 07547 515345

WEDNESBURY
St Barts Church Hall
Bttm Church Hill @ 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Contact Jenny 0121 556 5909

****NEW CONSULTANT****

WEDNESBURY
St Luke's Church, Elwell Street,
Mesty Croft, 7.00pm
Contact Lin 07902 079559

BLACKHEATH
Blackheath Central Meth Church,
High Street, @ 9.30am, 11.30pm, 5.00pm and 7.00pm
Contact Ann 07815 643963

OLDBURY
The Salvation Army Community Church,
Merton Close (off Pound Road) @ 7.30pm
Contact Lorraine 07434 728698

TIVIDALE
St Michael's Church
Tividale Road, B69 2LQ @ 5.00pm and 7.00pm
Contact Kenton 07982 408088

THURSDAY

WEDNESBURY
St Bart's Church Hall,
Bttm Church Hill @ 9.15am
Contact Jenny 07751 259593

OLDBURY
Portway Lifestle Centre,
Newbury Lane @ 7.00pm
Contact Claire 07539 950447

WEDNESBURY
Lea Brook Church Hall
Leabrood Road North @ 7.30pm
Contact Lin 07902 079559

TIVIDALE
Ormaston Sandwell Community Academy
Lower City Road @ 7.00pm
Contact Sarah 07875 445462

WEST BROMWICH
Stone Cross Library
Beverley Road @ 9.00am, 11.00am and 1.00pm
Contact Lisa 07514 607650

*****NEW CONSULTANT*****

TIPTON
The Sportsman Pub (Separate entrance),
St. Marks Road, @ 9.00am, 11.00am, 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Contact Julie 07505 084916

SMETHWICK
St Marks Church
Thimblemill Road @ 3.30pm, 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Contact Michelle 07516 255665

BRANDHALL
Kings Community Church,
Oak Tree Centre, Tame Road @ 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Contact Ann 07815 643963

WEST BROMWICH
Stone Cross Library,
Beverley Road, @ 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Contact Carole 07854 413929

FRIDAY

SMETHWICK
St Marks Church
Thimblemill Road @ 9.30am
Contact Michelle 07516 255665

ROWLEY REGIS
Rowley Regis Disability Centre
26 Rowley Village, B65 9AT 9.30am
Contact Kenton 07982 408088

SATURDAY

WEDNESBURY
Lea Brook Church Hall,
Leabrook Road North @ 8.00am
Contact Lin 07902 079559

OLDBURY
Peters Well Community Centre
(Lightwoods Primary School)
Clent Road, B68 9ER @ 8.00am and 10.00am
Contact Kerrie 07923 129816

DARLASTON
Darlaston Sports & Social Club Ltd,
16 The Leys, @ 9.00am
Contact Lesley 01922 634883

OLDBURY
Portway Lifestyle Centre,
Newbury Lane, B69 1HE @ 9.00am and 11.00am
Contact Kenton 07982 408088

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£32m housing scheme opens up in Smethwick

Pupils get into the groove

Some of the youngsters who are taking part in the production

A GROUP of teenagers are having a life-changing summer experience thanks to funding from the Arts Council and Children in Need.

Shireland Collegiate Academy in Sandwell are taking part in a three-week residency with the London-based award winning ZooNation Dance company, who previously wowed local audiences with their acclaimed shows 'Some Like it Hip Hop' and 'Into the Hoods'.

The young cast, chosen from schools in the Black Country, took their unique take on The Wizard of Oz, 'Groove on Down the Road' to the Arena Theatre at the end of August and will be at the Birmingham Hippodrome on September 27-29.

The project team has raised over £25,000 to give the students the opportunity to work alongside some of the leading Hip Hop dance practitioners in the country.

Lucy Prince, Creative Arts Director at Shireland, who is shadowing the process, said: "This is an incredible experience for our students; the rehearsals have been really well organised and very demanding and the standard of work being achieved is outstanding."

A NEW £32m development of two, three and four-bedroom homes in Sandwell has officially been opened.

The Galton Lock site in Smethwick, off Mafeking Road, will consist of 180 properties and was unveiled with a special ceremony led by Warley MP John Spellar.

It is being built by Countryside, in partnership with Sigma Capital Group.

John Gilbert, Countryside's regional operations director, said: "Galton Lock epitomises a true partnership scheme, with ourselves, Sandwell Council, Sigma Capital Group and the Homes and Communities Agency all working collaboratively to deliver quality housing available to both buy and rent. This is a showcase scheme for the Midlands region and an exemplar of how to transform a brownfield site into a diverse and vibrant community.

Freehold

"We hope to be able to take our learnings and approach here and successfully replicate it in other areas. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the local community for their ongoing support."

Of the 180 homes under construction, 79 three and four-bedroom homes will be available for sale on the open market as freehold, with the option to use the government's five per cent deposit Help to Buy scheme. Sandwell Council will be providing 38 homes to council tenants. The remaining 63 two, three and four-bedroom homes will be available for private rent under Sigma's Simple Life brand.

Countryside is also working closely with the Bangladeshi Islamic Centre, which is located on Lewisham Road, to provide a car park for visitors to the mosque. For details about the new homes at Galton Lock visit www.galtonlock.co.uk or call 0121 314 6751.

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At Dudley Hippodrome – Bruce Forsyth, Roy Castle, Ben Warris and Ken Dodd

Dudley's Hippodrome theatre, where the star performed

Where career began – Theatre Royal Bilston, since demolished

Bruce on stage with Julie Andrews, left, and Beryl Reid

Bruce fronted Strictly Come Dancing with Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman

How it all began for our Brucie in Bilston

HE was the face of Saturday night TV for decades but Sir Bruce Forsyth's career began right here in the Black Country as a starry-eyed teenager.

MEMORY LANE

By Clare Butler

Bruce's first-ever public appearance was in Bilston in 1942, where at just 14 he sang, danced and played the accordion. Later he appeared at the landmark Dudley Hippodrome theatre.

He appeared under the stage name The Mighty Atom at the Bilston's Theatre Royal, with billboards splashed across Wolverhampton and Birmingham with 'Boy Brucie, The Mighty Atom'.

Accordion

The Great Marzo topped the bill at the 1,300-seat venue, which sat on the corner of Mount Pleasant. But the show wasn't a success and ground to a halt after just one week. Speaking in recent years, Bruce joked: "After one week the show folded because I was so terrible. All I got was 13 shillings and fourpence.''

Sue Appleby recalled how her mother, who is now 102, was at one of the Bilston shows.

She said: "My mum was born in Bilston as Ivy Rollason. She was there at the Bilston Theatre Royal in what was probably his first ever performance. Billed as Boy Bruce the Mighty Atom, he did a song and dance act and played the accordion.

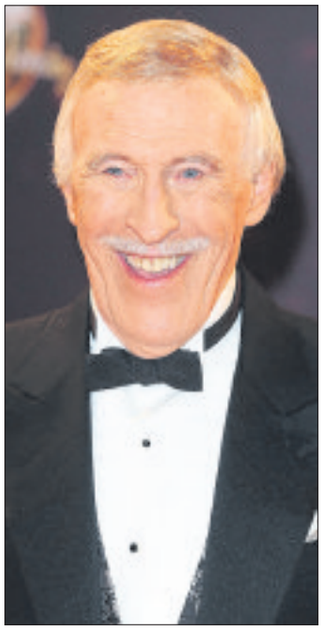
"My mum always told me how she saw him on stage there and what a wonderful night it was."

The theatre itself lasted until 1957 when it closed and was eventually demolished in 1961.

In later years, Sir Bruce, who died recently aged 89, graced the Black Country again, appearing at Dudley Hippodrome.

In 2015, when former box office assistant Amy Shepherd passed away, her son Paul shared some of her photographs and memorabilia from her time at the iconic theatre, including a picture of Bruce with Roy Castle, Ben Warris and Ken Dodd.

Strictly Come Dancing is to pay tribute to former host Bruce Forsyth during its September launch show. The professional dancers will group together for a 'heartfelt' number to honour the entertainer who fronted the BBC show for nine years. He left in 2013, when he decided to reduce his workload for health reasons.



Sir Bruce Forsyth in recent years

The Ticket

EYRE TIME: NADIA IN NEW STAGE ROLE

INSIDE

MUSIC + TV GUIDE + PUZZLES + MORE

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Nadia is a breath of fresh Eyre as Jane

It took Nadia Clifford approximately 0.2 seconds to accept her dream role as Jane Eyre. Actually, that's not true. It took less than that for her to break into a scream after her agent called to say she'd landed the part.

The people she was walking past, in London's Soho, looked on aghast as she squealed with joy.

"It was after my third audition, I was on my way to meet a friend for lunch, by which point I was emotionally invested in the role and the show.

"My agent called 20 minutes after I left the audition with Sally, the director, and told me. I was in the middle of Soho and I just screamed down the phone. Anyone who was in the vicinity of me for 20 yards must have thought I was a mad woman. I was thrilled."

Nadia is, of course, anything but mad. An avowed Charlotte Brontë fan, she is quite literally playing her dream role in the National Theatre's production of Jane Eyre, which runs at Birmingham's REP from Monday until September 16 as part of a major 21-city tour of the UK.

This year marks the 170th anniversary of the first publication of Jane Eyre – and Charlotte Brontë's much-loved story of the trailblazing Jane is still as inspiring as ever. The National Theatre's bold and dynamic production tells the story of one woman's fight for freedom and fulfilment.

From her beginnings as a destitute orphan, Jane Eyre's spirited heroine faces life's obstacles head-on, surviving poverty, injustice and the discovery of bitter betrayal before taking the ultimate decision to follow her heart.

Nadia had read the novel several times before auditioning for the role. Her first read through was as a 14-year-old, while she immersed herself again at 21 before re-reading it twice for the role.

"It's a mammoth role and so I wasn't taking it lightly. I wasn't allowing myself to fantasise about getting it. It was so beyond the realms of possibility I just didn't want to make a fool of myself. I was pinching myself when it eventually happened."

"It's funny because reading it with the knowledge that I was going to be playing the role meant I read it in a different way to someone just enjoying the work of Charlotte Brontë. What was really amazing when I read it knowing I'd got the role was that it catapulted me back to my teens. I felt a strong sense of identification with a kindred spirit, which so many people feel.

"Jane Eyre is universal at articulating love and anger and jealousy. It's an enriching experience to read good writing. It makes you feel acknowledged in your own emotional state."

In Sally Cookson's highly-acclaimed staging, Nadia plays Jane Eyre with Tim Delap as Rochester. They are joined by Hannah Bristow (Helen Burns/Adele/St John/Grace Poole/Abbot), Matthew Churcher (Musician), Alex Heane (Musician), Melanie Marshall (Bertha Mason), Paul Mundell (Mr Brocklehurst/Pilot/Mason), David Ridley (musician), Evelyn Miller (Bessie/Blanche Ingram/Diana) and Lynda Rook (Mrs Reed/Mrs Fairfax). The cast is completed by Ben Cutler, Jenny Johns, Dami Olukoya, Francesca Tomlinson and Phoebe Vigor.

The exciting new stage version of Jane Eyre was originally presented in two parts at Bristol Old Vic, and then transferred to the National Theatre, re-imagined as a single performance, playing to sold-out houses at the NT's Lyttelton Theatre.

No plain Jane – Nadia Clifford stars as Jane Eyre

Nadia says she pours herself into the role: "I think that in order to be authentic with your performance you have to draw on your own emotions and experience. That can be quite a painful thing to do. You are accessing little boxes that are hidden away.

"You can't splash around in those dark emotions during the normal course of a day without doing some serious damage to your mental health.

"But I have to access those places and when I am on stage. I still have to draw on personal experience and relationships and events from my life to bring truth and honesty to Jane's journey.

"OK, so I'm not an orphan and I don't know what it's like to be traumatised as a child, like she is in that relationship with Mrs Reid. But I know loneliness and frustration and I know what it is to be overwhelmed by emotions. They are all in Jane's frame of reference. As an actor, you have a tool box and those are in mine."

Nadia grew up in Manchester. As a teen, she was a super, uber, ultimate, turbo fan of the Brontë sisters. She wasn't far from Howarth and would visit the parsonage where they grew up."I am a big fan of all the sisters work and I love period dramas. Howarth is an amazing place. It's such an incredible place to be. It's so isolated and it's so humming with this energy. It's so cut off. Knowing how intelligent and analytical all three of the sisters were was very important to me. They had to work hard. Because of their gender, they couldn't come out and earn a living as novelists. They had nothing like the recognition they had after their lifetime."

> *I know loneliness and frustration and I know what it is to be overwhelmed*

Jane Eyre remains a bona fide classic – as enjoyable for the cast and crew as it is for the audience.

Nadia adds: "It's a massive rollercoaster. We haven't had a moment to think. We travel on a Sunday, perform Monday to Saturday with eight shows a week and each show is three hours. I never leave the stage. But it's amazing to be involved in this whirlwind that completely swallows up you. I've had to forsake everything in my life for now, it's full on. We have a holiday coming up soon and I am really looking forward to downtime so that I can reboot. But being part of this, with the National, really is a dream."

● For tickets visit www.birmingham-rep.co.uk

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

Furs frontman Richard Butler

Pretty good way to catch up with the Furs

The veteran post-punk band The Psychedelic Furs, led by brothers Richard and Tim Butler, are touring the UK for the first time in five years – including a gig at Birmingham O2 Institute on Tuesday.

At the Digbeth venue and the other venues on their nine-city jaunt they will be celebrating the many singles they've released throughout their career.

Since 1980, the Furs have released seven studio albums and a string of singles that have had great success both here and abroad.

From the early days of Sister Europe and We Love You and continuing on through such iconic hit songs as Love My Way, Heaven, The Ghost In You, Heartbreak Beat and the classic Pretty In Pink, the Psychedelic Furs have certainly left an indelible impression.

The Singles tour will be a chance to revisit highlights from their career and at Birmingham fans will also be able to get reacquainted with Stiff Records' queen of quirk Lene Lovich, as the Lucky Number hit-maker will be supporting with her band.

See the website academymusicgroup.com/o2institutebirmingham for further details about this and other forthcoming gigs.

Countdown until Richard's big night

TV and radio comedy star Richard Digance is on the road in celebration of his 50-year career.

He will stop off at Bilston's Robin 2 for a show this Wednesday, September 6.

Richard first realised his dream of doing stand-up when he was a student, inspired by someone who was soon to be one of comedy's biggest names.

"There was this guy who used to sing at a folk club near where I went to college in Glasgow," explains Richard. "He was a bloke called Billy Connolly. When he finished, guys would buy him beers and the girls would try and chat him up. I thought 'that's what I want'.

"I joined the BBC and worked with the satirical man of the moment, Bernard Braden. My job was to write songs every week for his show. That's how I started. I've been getting away with it ever since."

"I went on tour in 1974 with Steeleye Span; and that was my first entry to theatres. Through the 70s I did the Breakfast In America with Supertramp, I toured with Tom Jones and with Jethro Tull. I was only known as a support act, which is OK, I was really just cashing in on other people's' audiences."

Richard joined forces with comedy legend Steve Martin to tour the US. "I'd watch him every night and just think 'wow'."

Touring with Jim Davidson he was asked if he would like a TV show. "So I went straight on TV with my own show, from 1984 to 1995. I was able to do what I wanted, such as playing guitar duets with people such as Brian May and Status Quo. Then I went on to Countdown for 19 years. It wasn't what I wanted to be. I love telling stories and playing guitar – it's just really fun."

Oh Bhoy, Danny getting Stronger

Scottish comedian Danny Bhoy brings his new show to Wolverhampton on Wednesday.

His 'Make Something Great Again For Stronger Better Future Tomorrow Together' show will be performed by the acclaimed stand-up at the Slade Rooms.

Danny began his career in comedy 19 years ago and has been a regular success at the Edinburgh Fringe and in Canada. He has already sold out his gig later this month at the Old Rep in Birmingham.

Elvis and Dreamboys feature in one nighters

There's a big week of one-nighter shows on the way before Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre gets into its autumn schedule of five-day musicals and plays.

On Tuesday the Alex hosts The Simon and Garfunkel Story featuring such classic songs as Bridge Over Troubled Water and Homeward Bound with Sam O'Hanlon as Paul Simon and Charles Blyth as Art Garfunkel. Those bare-chested hunks The Dreamboys will muscle in for a teasing time at the Alex on Wednesday.

Tribute award-winner Rob Kingsley brings A Vision of Elvis on Tour to the Suffolk Street-Queensway venue on Friday, September 8, complete with his Cadillac Band and the Sweet Sensations. Next Saturday singer and impersonator Joe Longthorne is in concert at the Alex.

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

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Manager Mandy always ensure a warm welcome to customers old and new at the Waggon & Horses in Oldbury.

Waggon & Horses also showcase all the major sporting events from Football to Boxing all featured on Sky Sports, BT Sports and Box Nation. For those who like 'doing' rather than 'watching' there is the availability of the Pool Table.

The pub itself boasts a wide range of ciders, lagers, wines and spirits including 'Real Ales' which they rotate weekly. Regulars very often enjoy ales such as Bathams, AJ Ales, Oakham, JHB, Stairway To Heaven and MA Pardoes Entire, Plus many more!.

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, August 31, 2017

SATURDAY'S TV SEPTEMBER 2

CHOICE

Simon Cowell

The X Factor (ITV, 8pm)
New series. Dermot O'Leary returns with the long-running talent contest, which is now entering its 14th year. As ever, would-be pop icons from all walks of life queue down the street for a moment in the spotlight as the auditions process begins, but it remains to be seen whether the contestant who will ultimately replace last year's winner Matt Terry as champion will be among the first acts to present themselves to the panel. Louis Walsh, Nicole Scherzinger and Sharon Osbourne all return to take their places at the judges' desk, alongside ever-present X Factor supremo Simon Cowell.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nadiya's British Food Adventure. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Athletics: Diamond League Brussels Highlights. **2.15** Live Triathlon. The British Triathlon Mixed Relay Cup. **4.30** Flog It! (R) **5.10** Celebrity Mastermind. (R) **5.40** Wallace & Gromit: The Wrong Trousers. (R)
6.10 BBC News.
6.20 Regional Programme.
6.25 Len Goodman's Partners in Rhyme. Michelle Ackerley, Russell Kane, Russell Grant and Roxanne Pallett try to help contestants Brun and Isabella make it through Len's poetry-based challenges.
7.00 Pointless Celebrities. Simon Day, Paul Chowdhry, Emily Atack, Ian Lavender, Kerry Godliman, Graeme Garden, Steve Pemberton and Bob Mortimer take part in a special edition of the quiz. (R)
7.50 Casualty. Ethan anxiously awaits the result of the coroner's report into Scott Ellisson's death, and Iain faces the wrath of Lily's Aunt Ling when he accompanies her to a family wedding.
9.00 Film: The Full Monty. (1997) Six unemployed men from Sheffield decide to become strippers for one night only in a bid to raise extra money. However, with no dancing experience and far from perfect physiques, the men rely on the unique selling point of complete nudity to impress the punters. Comedy, starring Robert Carlyle, Mark Addy, Tom Wilkinson, Hugo Speer and Paul Barber.
10.25 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.
10.45 Mrs Brown's Boys. Newlyweds Dermot and Maria argue over whether they should buy their own home, while Grandad hopes to witness his own funeral. (R)
11.15 Live at the Apollo. Frankie Boyle hosts an evening of stand-up at the Apollo in Hammersmith, London, introducing routines by Simon Evans and Aisling Bea. (R)
11.45 People Just Do Nothing. Kurupt FM's HQ is daubed with graffiti as the spat with Kold FM intensifies, and while the others set about securing the boundaries, Grindah continues his battle to win back Miche.
12.15 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.20 BBC News.

BBC2

6.45 The NFL Show. (R) **7.15 Film:** Valley of Eagles. (1951) **8.35 Film:** Mrs Miniver. (1942) **10.45** Railways of the Great War with Michael Portillo. (R) **11.15** Wanted Down Under. (R) **12.00** My Life on a Plate. (R) **12.45** Dirk Bogarde: Talking Pictures. (R) **1.25 Film:** The Password Is Courage. (1962) Fact-based Second World War comedy drama, starring Dirk Bogarde. **3.20** Mastermind. (R) **3.45** University Challenge. (R) **4.15** Only Connect. (R) **4.45** Gardeners' World. (R) **5.45** The Big Family Cooking Showdown. (R)
6.45 Proms Extra. Katie Derham is joined by percussionist Evelyn Glennie and pianist Stephen Hough to discuss Stravinsky's Violin Concerto and some of the recent Proms concerts. Last in the series.
7.25 Venice Biennale: Britain's New Voices. Documentary following a group of British artists as they prepare an exhibition of their work in a Venice Palazzo during the prestigious Italian arts festival.
8.00 Iolo's Great Welsh Parks. Iolo Williams visits Dare Valley Country Park near Aberdare, which was the first country park in Wales and up until the 1960s was the site of 19 coal mines. Last in the series.
8.30 Dad's Army. Wilson struggles to get the platoon out of the pub and on parade, leaving Mainwaring to tackle a suspected IRA terrorist. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)
9.00 Whitney: Can I Be Me. Director Nick Broomfield makes use of previously unused footage and live performance recordings to tell the life story of Whitney Houston, the celebrated American singer who died at the age of 48 in 2012. Despite making millions of dollars, and achieving more consecutive number-one hits than The Beatles, Whitney's time in the spotlight left her believing she "wasn't free" to be herself, and here, Broomfield assesses the circumstances that would bring a talented performer of international repute to believe she was a victim of her own success.
10.40 Film: Hunky Dory. (2011) A teacher at a 1970s Welsh school persuades her students to stage a rock musical based on Shakespeare's The Tempest. Comedy drama, with Minnie Driver.
12.25 Film: I'm So Excited! (2013) **1.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Sooty. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Ninjago: Rebooted. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** Weekend. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Saturday Morning with James Martin. **11.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Tipping Point. (R) **1.30** Midsomer Murders. (R) **3.30 Film:** Mamma Mia! (2008) Musical comedy, starring Meryl Streep. **5.30** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.45** ITV News; Weather.
6.00 The Family Chase. New series. Bradley Walsh pits teams made up of family members against some of the finest quiz brains in the country, beginning with the Bennetts from Hampshire.
7.00 Cannonball. New series. Andrew Flintoff hosts the action-packed game show, in which 24 contestants are tasked with traversing a series of water-based challenges and custom-made inflatable obstacles, each designed to test their speed, accuracy, height and distance. The most successful contestants then claim a chance to launch themselves 'cannonball-style' at a moving target on the surface of a deep-water tank, all in the hope of nabbing the show's 'priceless' Cannonball Cup. Frankie Bridge, Radzi Chinyanganya, Ryan Hand and Maya Jama all join Andrew at the poolside to commentate on the action.
8.00 The X Factor. New series. The long-running talent contest returns, as judges Louis Walsh, Nicole Scherzinger, Sharon Osbourne and Simon Cowell appraise their first batch of auditionees.
9.30 The Jonathan Ross Show. New series. The chat show returns, as Jonathan interviews singer-turned-actor Harry Styles, actress Suranne Jones, retired track runner Mo Farah and comedian John Bishop.
10.30 ITV News; Weather.
10.45 Film: Die Another Day. (2002) Spy adventure, starring Pierce Brosnan and Halle Berry.
1.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

8.05 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.50** The Simpsons. (R) **11.20** The Simpsons. (R) **11.50** The Simpsons. (R) **12.20** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **1.20** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.50** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.20** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **4.00** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **5.00** Channel 4 News. **5.30** Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.
7.00 Rome's Sunken Secrets. Documentary exploring the underwater ruins of Baiae, an ancient Roman city located in the modern-day Bay of Naples, which in its time was an exclusive retreat for the wealthiest and most influential of the empire's citizens. A team of historians and volcanologists examine the relics that have been uncovered from the city and investigate the reasons why it sank. Baiae was located in a volcanic landscape, which provided a supply of hot water and steaming sulphur baths – but also led to the city's destruction. (R)
8.00 Great Canal Journeys: India. The first of two programmes in which Timothy West and Prunella Scales explore India by canal boat. The trip begins in Kerala, a region of palm-fringed lakes, rivers and British-built canals which has had a thriving spice trade for thousands of years. They explore a boat built by a local ruler and make offerings at a temple, while Pru learns a traditional dance. (R)
9.00 Film: A Good Day to Die Hard. (2013) John McClane goes to Russia having received word that his estranged son Jack is in trouble with the law. He is surprised to discover Jack is secretly a CIA agent, and father and son join forces to take on the Russian Mob, who are engaged in a plot to steal nuclear weapons. Action adventure sequel, starring Bruce Willis and Jai Courtney.
10.50 Film: X-Men 2. (2003) The X-Men are forced into an uneasy alliance with arch-enemy Magneto to battle a common foe. Superhero adventure sequel, starring Hugh Jackman.
1.10 Hollyoaks. **3.15** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.10** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.45** Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) **11.05** Police Interceptors: Deadly Pursuits. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors: The Fatal Four. (R) **1.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **4.00** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **5.00** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R)
6.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. In Coventry, the sheriffs chase £10,000 owed by a publican to a contractor, while agents in central London try to recover almost £8,000 owed to a firm of accountants. (R)
6.55 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Paul and Ben face a challenging eviction in London, where a vulnerable tenant in rent arrears has barricaded her front door, and the agents receive a tirade of abuse. Meanwhile, Brian and Del chase a debt of nearly £2,000 in Surrey, before trying to recover almost £3,000 in Northamptonshire. Finally, Steve and Ru head to Portsmouth to evict a young family for a landlord who wants her property back. (R)
7.55 5 News Weekend.
8.00 Supernatural Nazis. Hitler's belief in black magic and psychic abilities, which he used to shape his strategies and influence the course of the war.
9.00 Super Scary Plane Landings. Flying remains the safest way to travel, but a 10-year study by Boeing shows that more than half of fatal air crashes happen during approach and landing – eight times more deadly than take-off fatalities. This documentary visits the islands of the Caribbean, home to some of the world's most difficult runways, including St Barts where the airport is on the side of a hill that gives way to the sea. It also includes interviews with passengers who were on board a flight forced to return to Heathrow after an engine burst into flames. (R)
10.00 The Secret Life of the Long-Haul Flight. Documentary following one of the longest flights in the world – from London to Sydney. (R)
11.30 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals.
12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Eve of Destruction. **4.45** Access. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 The Brain with David Eagleman **8.00** Fossil Wonderlands: Nature's Hidden Treasures **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **11.00** Top of the Pops: 1984 **12.10** The Everly Brothers: Harmonies from Heaven **1.10** Metal at the BBC **1.40** Fabric of Britain: The Wonder of Embroidery **2.40** Fossil Wonderlands: Nature's Hidden Treasures **3.40** Close

ITV2
11.50 You've Been Framed! Gold **12.15** You've Been Framed Gold! Funniest 100 **1.20 Film:** Space Chimps (2008) **2.20** FYI Daily **2.25 Film:** Space Chimps (2008) **3.00 Film:** Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) **4.05** FYI Daily **4.10 Film:** Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) **4.50 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **5.50** FYI Daily **5.55 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **6.55 Film:** Pacific Rim (2013) **7.55** FYI Daily **8.00 Film:** Pacific Rim (2013) **9.30 Film:** The 40 Year-Old Virgin (2005) **10.30** FYI Daily **10.35 Film:** The 40 Year-Old Virgin (2005) **11.50** Family Guy **1.15** American Dad! **2.10** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3
1.45 The Darling Buds of May **3.00 Film:** The Queen (2006) **4.00** FYI Daily **4.05 Film:** The Queen (2006) **5.05** Lewis **9.00** Foyle's War **11.05** Law & Order: UK **1.05** The Knock **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
12.00 British Touring Car Championship Highlights **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Sandown. **4.00 Film:** Every Which Way But Loose (1978) **5.00** FYI Daily **5.05 Film:** Every Which Way But Loose (1978) **6.15** Storage Wars **7.10** Barcelona's European Glory **7.25** World Cup 2018 Qualifier. **10.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **11.00** World Cup Highlights 2018 **12.30 Film:** Senna (2010) **1.30** FYI Daily **1.35 Film:** Senna (2010) **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.55 Film: Muppet Treasure Island (1996) **1.55** Streetmate **3.00** Don't Tell the Bride **4.00** The Great British Bake Off **5.15** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice **6.05** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** GI Joe: Retaliation (2013) **10.05** Naked Attraction **11.10** Gogglebox **1.30** Tattoo Fixers **2.20** Rude Tube **3.25** Naked Attraction **4.20** Rude(ish) Tube

Film4
1.00 The Book of Life (2014) **2.50** Carry On Constable (1960) **4.30** Fantastic Four (2005) **6.35** Mrs Doubtfire (1993) **9.00** Prisoners (2013) **12.05** Solomon Kane (2010) **2.10** The Evil Dead (1982) **4.00** Close

Commercial Feature

WHAT CAME FIRST THE CHICKEN OR THE HEN?

The local community are in raptures over the re opening of their local pub.

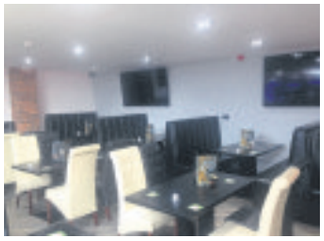
Formally known as the Hen & Chickens public house The owner has spent a vast amount of money on a major refurbishment to re open as **'THE NEW HEN & CHICKEN BAR & GRILL'**

You do not have to go inside the new venue to realise a lot of thought and money has gone into the re-development.

The front of the pub has had a major make over, with brand new seating area set on lavish tiles with a fresh look to the

exterior giving it a wow factor as you look at it from afar.

Ideally situated between Junction 9 of the M6 and Junction 1 of the M5, The New Hen & Chicken is easily found



on the main route between the junctions at Hill Top, not far from the old Express and Star Offices at Black Lake.

The Bar & Grill is split into two areas inside with a re vamped bar area and giant TV screens showing many sporting events.

The second section inside is the new rear extension, with stylish dining tables along with TV screens again so no sporting coverage will be missed.

Nothing To Hide

The Owner said "since we reopened on the 16th August 2017 the feedback has been tremendous with lots of people really impressed with our 'Open Kitchen' This means we have nothing to hide so patrons can see their food being freshly prepared,

by our fully trained chefs."

The kitchen has a 5* food hygiene rating and the aroma created by the chefs using the finest herbs and spices is second to none.

The menu has various dishes available from the ever popular Tandoori, curries, to magnificent lamb, chicken, sea food and vegetarian delights. For those undecided there are also various chefs specials which will tantalise those taste buds.

The New Hen & Chicken Bar & Grill is now open Monday to Sunday from 12 noon - 10.30pm, No need to book just call in and treat yourself to a beautiful meal in very nice surroundings.

The New Hen & Chicken is situated at

90 Hill Top,
West Bromwich,
B70 0RT

Tel 0121 439 3564

Email:
thenewhenandchicken@hotmail.com

SUNDAY'S TV SEPTEMBER 3

CHOICE

Fiona Bruce (right)

Fake or Fortune? (BBC1, 8pm)
Fiona Bruce and art expert Philip Mould travel to Australia to verify whether a painting bought from an English auction site is a lost work by impressionist Tom Roberts, one of the country's most important artists. The owners have fallen on hard times, and desperately need to prove the painting is genuine. The investigation leads them to retrace the time Roberts spent in Britain and uncovers some alarming forgeries.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** Points of View. **3.15** Lifeline. **3.25** Songs of Praise. **4.00** Diana: The Last Princess of Wales. **5.00 Film:** Toy Story 3. (2010) Woody, Buzz and the other toys accidently end up in a daycare centre when their owner grows up. At first this seems like the perfect new home for them, but when they realise the dangers lurking under the surface, they begin to formulate an escape plan. Pixar animated adventure sequel, with the voices of Tom Hanks and Tim Allen.

6.35 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. A look at how our food is harvested, whether it is large-scale crops to stock supermarket shelves or smaller hand-picked harvests for local markets. John Craven is in Oxfordshire meeting the only distillers in the country to use an ancient strain of rye to create a new type of gin, while Margherita Taylor is in Norfolk with a farmer keen to extol the virtues of the humble British radish.

8.00 Fake or Fortune? Fiona Bruce and art expert Philip Mould travel to Australia to verify whether a painting is a lost work by impressionist Tom Roberts, one of the country's most important artists.

9.00 Strike – The Cuckoo's Calling. Long-buried secrets are revealed, putting Strike and Robin in danger as they close in on Lula's killer. Robin receives key information from a salesgirl at the boutique Lula visited, while John points out that he, Tony and Yvette all have an alibi. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 New Tricks. Detective drama, starring Dennis Waterman as one of three retired officers dedicated to tackling unsolved cases. (R)

11.30 Film: Keeping Rosy. (2014) A businesswoman takes increasingly desperate measures to make amends after she commits an uncharacteristic violent act. Thriller, starring Maxine Peake.

12.55 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 The Instant Gardener. (R) **6.45** Garden Rescue. (R) **7.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** Countryfile. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) **12.00** A Cook Abroad: Monica Galetti's France. (R) **1.00** Boxing: World Amateur Championships. **3.00** Equestrian: Burghley Horse Trials. **5.00** Flog It! (R)

6.00 Wild Tales from the Village. Documentary following the animals that live near a remote rural French village, including red squirrels, wild boar, dormice and stone martens. As the wildlife struggles to survive the winter, they take full advantage of living so close to unsuspecting humans in their search for food, while trying not to be detected. (R)

7.00 Tribes, Predators & Me. Gordon Buchanan travels to Papua New Guinea, where he meets a tribe on the banks of the Sepik River that has learned to live alongside crocodiles. Members of the tribe teach him to hunt fully grown adult predators using only their bare hands and discovers their belief that a giant crocodile lives in a nearby lake and protects them from harm. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 Dragons' Den. Deborah Meaden, Peter Jones, Touker Suleyman, Tej Lalvani and Jenny Campbell consider the profit-making potential of a crowdfunded range of personalised luxury bags, a range of free-from, allergy-friendly frozen curry sauces and a thick-yarn crafting business.

9.00 Astronauts: Do You Have What It Takes? The candidates move from basic to advanced stages of selection, heading to some of the most specialised astronaut training facilities in Europe.

10.00 Ill Behaviour. Joel is consumed by paranoia as he and Tess resort to locking Charlie in the basement, and accidentally destroys the last round of chemotherapy drugs. Last in the series.

11.00 Film: Let Me In. (2010) A bullied boy befriends a mysterious girl, unaware she is a vampire who is behind a recent series of killings. Horror remake, starring Chloe Grace Moretz.

12.45 Film: Return from the River Kwai. (1988) **2.25** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.20** Holby City. (R) **4.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Sooty. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Ninjago: Rebooted. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** Weekend. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Judge Rinder. (R) **10.25** Joanna Lumley's Postcards. (R) **10.55** James Martin's French Adventure. **11.20** Long Lost Family. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Bear Grylls Survival School. (R) **1.00 Film:** Happy Feet. (2006) Animated adventure, with the voice of Elijah Wood. **3.00** The X Factor. (R) **4.30** Victoria. (R) **5.35** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.40** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. New series. Ben Shephard presents a celebrity quiz, in which contestants Melanie C, Louis Walsh and Anton Du Beke answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine.

7.00 Coronation Street. Phelan makes a grave decision about Andy, Rana and Kate's night out ends in upset, and Todd leaves Summer and Amy to their own devices.

8.00 The X Factor. The long-running talent contest continues, as Louis Walsh, Nicole Scherzinger, Sharon Osbourne and Simon Cowell judge their second batch of auditionees.

9.00 Victoria. The queen suspects that her husband is attracted to another woman, and discovers that she is pregnant with a second child – leaving her concerned that motherhood will dominate her life and reign, at the expense of any other possibilities. Below stairs, new dresser Cleary thinks that the palace is haunted, but Brodie believes there is a natural explanation for the events that have frightened her.

10.05 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Judge Rinder's Crime Stories. Barrister Robert Rinder examines real-life cases, looking at the events leading up to crimes, going through the police investigations and summing up the trials. (R)

11.25 5 Gold Rings. A brother and sister and two Royal Navy shipmates compete to identify images on an LED floor while viewers can play along using the series app. (R)

12.20 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R) **6.15** Last Man Standing. **6.40** Outlaw Triathlon. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.20 Film:** Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days. (2012) Family comedy sequel, starring Zachary Gordon. **3.15** The Crystal Maze. (R) **4.10** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **5.25** Channel 4 News. **5.45** Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix Highlights.

8.00 From Russia to Iran: Crossing the Wild Frontier. Levison Wood and his guide journey by any means available through Azerbaijan, encountering terrifying dogs and nomadic shepherds in the Gobustan desert. Then it is on to Georgia, where Levison goes in search of a hermit monk who lives on top of a 45m tall stone monolith, passes the birthplace of Stalin and visits an old Soviet mining town.

9.00 Film: Exodus: Gods and Kings. (2014) Premiere. Moses, the adoptive brother of the pharaoh of Egypt, is sent into exile, where he receives a message from God demanding he set all the country's slaves free. When his brother refuses to comply, the kingdom is struck by a series of devastating plagues. Biblical epic, starring Christian Bale, Joel Edgerton, Sigourney Weaver and John Turturro.

11.50 Film: Safe House. (2012) A CIA agent has to protect a captured fugitive from mercenaries, but also has to resist his prisoner's mind games. Thriller, with Denzel Washington and Ryan Reynolds.

1.50 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. The chef helps a New York restaurant stuck in the 1980s. (R) **2.40** Gillette World Sport. An interview with boxer Marco Huck. **3.10** KOTV Boxing Weekly. Reece Bellotti looks to keep his perfect record intact at the O2 in London. **3.35** Para Triathlon: Superhero Tri. Jonnie Peacock, David Weir and Kadeena Cox are among the stars appearing in the inaugural event, which took place at Dorney Lake. (R) **4.30** Location, Location, Location. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer revisit Matt Rushworth, who wanted to settle down in Windsor, and a couple from Sheffield with different opinions about their property. (R) **5.25** Jamie's Comfort Food Bites. Jamie demonstrates how to make a marshmallow pavlova. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Poppy Cat. **6.10** Little Princess. (R) **6.25** Mr Men. (R) **6.35** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.40** Milkshake! Bopping About. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.55** Wissper. (R) **7.05** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.15** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.25** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.30** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.50** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.15** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.35** Floogals. (R) **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.05** Shimmer and Shine. **9.20** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **10.05** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **11.10** Penguins Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **12.05** Monkeys Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **1.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.05** All New Traffic Cops. (R) **3.05** All New Traffic Cops. (R) **4.00** All New Traffic Cops. (R) **5.00** Traffic Cops: On the Edge. (R)

6.00 Traffic Cops: Under Attack. Thieves towing a stolen generator on one wheel along town and country roads cause chaos, smashing the barriers on a closed level crossing and coming close to causing a train crash. (R)

7.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. High Court enforcement agents Paul Bohill and Steve Pinner are in Birmingham on a potentially dangerous, full-scale eviction of a large traveller community. (R)

8.00 Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights. Action from the opening round of fixtures, including Saracens v Northampton Saints, London Irish v Harlequins and Gloucester v Exeter Chiefs.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Film: Fifty Shades of Grey. (2015) Premiere. A naive young literature student's life is thrown into turmoil by an affair with a mysterious billionaire. Initially she is intrigued by his aloof and distant manner, but soon realises he is harbouring dark secrets and desires. Erotic drama based on EL James' bestseller, starring Jamie Dornan. Including 5 News Update at 22.00.

11.25 My Secret Sex Fantasy. New series. A detailed look at the deepest fantasies of ordinary men and women, who volunteer to reveal them on camera, asking what their deeper meanings are beyond the sex.

12.20 OMG! Rise of the Insta-Babes. **1.10** SuperCasino. **3.10** Judy Garland: In Life and Death. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 The World's Most Beautiful Eggs: The Genius of Carl Faberge **8.00** BBC Proms 2017 **12.40** Singer-Songwriters at the BBC **2.35** The World's Most Beautiful Eggs: The Genius of Carl Faberge **3.35** Close

ITV2
11.00 The X Factor **12.35 Film:** Around the World in 80 Days (2004) **1.35** FYI Daily **1.40 Film:** Around the World in 80 Days (2004) **2.55 Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **3.55** FYI Daily **4.00 Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **4.45 Film:** Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005) **5.50** FYI Daily **5.55 Film:** Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005) **7.00 Film:** Inception (2010) **8.05** FYI Daily **8.10 Film:** Inception (2010) **10.00** Family Guy **11.55** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **1.50** Viral Tap **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV3
12.55 Midsomer Murders **2.55 Film:** The Secret Garden (1993) **3.55** FYI Daily **4.00 Film:** The Secret Garden (1993) **5.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium **10.00** Diana: The Day Britain Cried **11.00** Law & Order: UK **1.05** Foyle's War **2.50** The Knock **3.45** Wycliffe **4.40** Rising Damp **5.05** Judge Judy **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4
3.45 Football's Greatest: Paul Gascoigne **3.55** Storage Wars **4.20** The Big Fish Off **5.25** Minder **6.25** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **7.25** World Cup 2018 Qualifier. Hungary v Portugal (Kick-off 7.45pm). **10.00** Cycling: Tour of Britain **11.00 Film:** Maximum Conviction (2012) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10 Film:** Maximum Conviction (2012) **1.10** BRDC Formula 3 Championship Highlights **2.05** Barry McGuigan: Sports Life Stories **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.00 Made in Chelsea: Ibiza **12.00** Don't Tell the Bride **1.00** Streetmate **2.05 Film:** The Tigger Movie (2000) **3.40 Film:** Rio (2011) **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** The A-Team (2010) **11.20** The Big Bang Theory **12.20** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **1.20** Don't Tell the Bride **2.25** Body Fixers **3.20** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 The Phantom (1996) **1.00** Baby's Day Out (1994) **2.50** Eragon (2006) **4.55** Congo (1995) **7.00** Evolution (2001) **9.00** Four Weddings and a Funeral (1994) Romantic comedy, with Hugh Grant and Andie MacDowell. **11.15** Instinct (1999) **1.40** Mindscape (2013) **3.45** Close

THE NEW
HEN & CHICKEN
BAR & GRILL

ALL FAMILIES WELCOME
Reserving Opening Times:
Monday - Sunday
12:00pm - 10.30pm

STARTERS

Papadoms (2)	£1.00
Samosa (2)	£2.00
Spring Rolls	£2.00
Paneer Tikka	£4.00
Sizzling Chicken Wing	£3.50
Pork Steak	£3.50
Sizzling Chicken Tikka	£3.75
Sizzling Chicken Seekh Kebab	£3.75
Fish Pakora	£5.00
Lamb Chop	£5.50
Tandoori Salmon Tikka	£7.50

CHICKEN DISHES

Chicken Curry	£5.00
Chicken Madras	£5.00
Chicken Vindaloo	£5.00
Chicken Karhi	£5.25
Chicken Sag	£5.25
Chicken Jalfrazi	£5.25
Chicken Bhuna	£5.25
Chicken Balti	£5.25
Chicken Korma	£5.50
Butter Chicken	£5.50
Chicken Tikka	£5.50

LAMB DISHES

Lamb Curry	£6.00
Lamb Rogan Josh	£6.00
Lamb Bhuna	£6.00
Lamb Jalfrazi	£6.00
Lamb Sag	£6.00
Lamb Balti	£6.00
Keema Pieces	£6.00

CHILLI LEVELS
MILD
MEDIUM
HOT
EXTRA HOT

Specify whether you would like any dishes Altered to your preference and whether you would like your dishes Hot, Medium or Mild

Allergy Advisory:
Some food may contain nuts and other allergens please ask senior member of staff for more information

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1. **Chicken Claypot**
Pieces of chicken in our special claypit sauces coriander/ cashew/coconut/garlic/ginger
£5.50

2. **Sharabi Chicken**
Chicken cooked with tomato sauces and cashew nuts with brandy (contains brandy)
Lamb **£7.50** Chicken **£6.50** Prawn **£8.00**

3. **Punjabi Masala**
Tomato based sauce with onion masala and boiled egg
Chicken **£6.50** Lamb **£7.50** Prawn **£8.00**

4. **Garlic Chicken Curry**
Chicken and special sauce with garlic
Chicken **£6.50** Lamb **£6.75**

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Salmon Masala	£7.00

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Chilli Paneer	£4.00
Chicken Noodles	£4.50
Chilli Chicken	£4.50
Chilli Prawn	£5.00
Honey Chilli Chicken	£5.00
Chilli Fish	£5.00

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Geera Rice	£2.00
Garlic Coriander	£2.25
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Garlic Fried Rice	£2.50
Mushroom Fried Rice	£2.50
Indo Chinese Dishes	
Veg Noodles	£4.00
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Chicken Noodles	
Chilli Chicken	£4.50
Chilli Prawn	£5.00
Honey Chilli Chicken	£5.00
Chilli Fish	£5.00

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Prawn Biryani	£7.00
Plain Chips	£1.50
Sweet Chips	£1.50
Curry Sauce	£2.00
Rita	£2.00
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Chilli Chips	£2.25

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Sag Paneer	£4.50
Channa Masala	£4.50
Tarka Dal	£4.50
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Muttar Paneer	£4.50

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Sheekh Kebab Wrap	£4.50
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Chicken Wings, Chicken Tikka, Seekh Kebab, Masala Lamb Chops, Fish Pakora — £12.50

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Wing, Tikka, Achari Tikka, Masala Lamb Chop, Fish Pakora, King prawns served with Chutney and Salad — £16.00

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Paneer Tikka, Aloo Tikka, Samosa, Spring Roll, Garlic Mushroom, Chutney and Salad — £12.00

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Fish Fingers & Chips	£2.95
Sausage & Chips	£2.95
Nuggets & Chips	£2.95
Chicken Wings & Chips	£3.00

DESSERTS

Ice creams	
Vanilla	£2.50
Chocolate	£2.50

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PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Dear Viola, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Shy accountant Katie is working at a local newspaper when she takes over the advice column after the regular writer retires. Sifting through the letters, she finds one from a widower, who is unable to get over the death of his wife years earlier. They begin corresponding with each other and she soon finds herself falling in love with him. Romantic comedy, starring Kellie Martin and Jefferson Brown. (2014)

WEDNESDAY
Fifty Shades of Grey, Channel 5, 11pm
A naive young literature student's life is thrown into turmoil by an affair with a mysterious billionaire. Initially she is intrigued by his aloof and distant manner, but soon realises he is harbouring dark secrets and desires. Erotic drama based on EL James' bestseller, starring Jamie Dornan. (2015)

THURSDAY
A Risk Worth Taking, Channel 5, 3.10pm
A woman caring for her terminally ill husband at their home in the wilds of Scotland begins to develop feelings for a friend who is helping them to manage their business affairs. Romantic drama based on the novel by Robin Pilcher, starring Muriel Baumeister, James Wilby, Tim Dutton and Olivia Hallinan. (2008)

Little Voice, Friday, BBC1, 11.35pm

FRIDAY
Jesse Stone: Death in Paradise, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A disgraced Los Angeles cop who has become chief of police in a small town investigates when the body of a teenage girl is found in a lake. His inquiries lead him to Boston, where he comes into conflict with the local Mob. Third in the crime drama series, starring Tom Selleck and Edward Edwards. (2006)

Little Voice, BBC1, 11.35pm
A painfully shy woman has a talent for impersonating famous performers including Shirley Bassey, Marilyn Monroe and Judy Garland. She is spotted by a greedy promoter who instinctively realises her considerable money-spinning potential, but the shrinking violet proves reluctant to step into the limelight. Comedy drama, with Jane Horrocks. (1998)

Returning series is just what the doctor ordered

It all started with one blonde hair…

Back in 2015, the BBC launched the TV drama Doctor Foster starring Suranne Jones as GP Gemma Foster, who seemed to have the perfect life – until she discovered that stray strand of hair on her husband's scarf and began to fear he was cheating on her. Some viewers may have thought that was a bit of an extreme reaction, but it turned out that just because Gemma was paranoid it didn't mean that Simon (Bertie Carvel) wasn't a cheat who, in addition to getting a younger woman pregnant, had also secretly put his family in a precarious financial position.

Over the course of five exquisitely tense episodes, Gemma set out to expose the extent of Simon's betrayal, culminating in a horribly awkward dinner party and a violent confrontation – which an impressive 10.1 million of us tuned into watch.

Suranne Jones, who picked up a Best Actress Bafta for her performance as the woman scorned, can understand why viewers were hooked – it played on our 'fear of infidelity and fear of not being loved'.

The former Coronation Street star adds: "Trust is an issue that is very personal to each individual. You want to feel love and trust and all those things that bind relationships together, with your partner, your friends, your relatives or any loved ones. When you introduce a drama about those things people instantly identify with it. That's why relationship and family dramas work so well when they're done right."

Although some more bloodthirsty viewers were slightly disappointed that Gemma's revenge didn't go even further, the series ended with Simon in disgrace, forced to leave town with his pregnant mistress Kate (Jodie Comer), and the doctor with her reputation restored and custody of her son.

And as we pick up the action two years later in series two, it seems things are going well for Gemma.

Jones says: "On the surface she has got her life back together. She's very busy as she's now head of the GP surgery. She's still got her friends around her, like Ros and her neighbours across the

road. She and [son] Tom are very close and very happy. They treat each other very respectfully and like friends, they are very warm to each other. She's happy."

However, that's about to change when Simon takes his life into his hands and comes back. Jones explains: "I think Gemma would like to think she is in a position to allow herself to move on and him to move on as long as they have separate lives and they don't have to deal with each other. So

when she sees him every ounce of upset, torment and hatred comes flooding back. She can't control herself again and she hates that."

But how far will she go this time to regain the upper hand? Well, as writer and creator Mike Barlett says this new series is 'slightly darker' than the first, Simon should probably be very afraid…

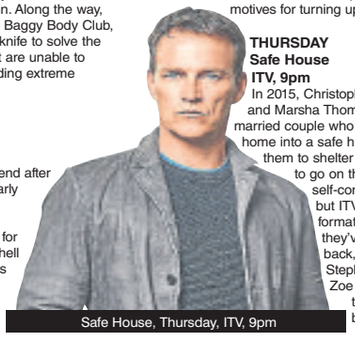
Suranne Jones stars as Doctor Foster, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Diana and I
BBC2, 9pm
There has been a whole raft of programmes looking at the death of Princess Diana recently, most of them considering the impact the tragedy had on her two sons William and Harry and the royal family. But what effect did Diana's death have on people throughout the nation? This fictional drama tells the story from the point of view of four ordinary people and is set across the week that followed her tragic death on August 31, 1997. It follows four lead characters (Tamsin Greig, Nico Mirallegro, Kiran Sonia Sawar and Laurie Davidson) whose stories run parallel but are at times interlinked. Each will lift the lid on that week, from that fateful Sunday to the funeral at Westminster Abbey. A mother, a son, a wife, a boyfriend – their human stories concern death, love, grief, greed, relationships, marriage – and will explore the role that chance and luck play in our lives.

TUESDAY
Lisa Riley's Baggy Body Club
ITV, 9pm
Over the course of 16 months, actress and presenter Lisa Riley has lost an astonishing 12 stone, going from a size 28 to a 12. However, it turns out there is a downside to her impressive weight loss. In this documentary, Lisa opens up about being part of the ëBaggy Body Club', the growing number of people who have been left with a mass of unsightly sagging skin after shedding the pounds. Filmed over seven months, cameras follow Lisa as she reveals how she lost the weight, works to maintain her new healthy lifestyle, and looks for a way to get rid of her excess skin. Along the way, she meets other members of the Baggy Body Club, who have either gone under the knife to solve the problem or who want surgery but are unable to afford it due to the NHS only funding extreme cases.

WEDNESDAY
Back
Channel 4, 10pm
In 2015, Peep Show came to an end after 12 years and nine series, but clearly David Mitchell and Robert Webb weren't ready to call time on their double act. They've now reunited for this new sitcom, which stars Mitchell as Stephen, a failed lawyer who is preparing to take over the family pub following the death of his father. His mum and sister have no qualms about handing over control of the business, but Stephen fears his plans are unravelling when his charismatic former foster brother Andrew (Webb), who spent five months living with the family in the 1980s, unexpectedly arrives for the funeral. The other mourners are delighted to see him again, but Stephen can barely remember him – and becomes suspicious about his motives for turning up out of the blue.


Safe House, Thursday, ITV, 9pm

THURSDAY
Safe House
ITV, 9pm
In 2015, Christopher Eccleston and Marsha Thomason played a married couple who turned their home into a safe house, enabling them to shelter a family forced to go on the run. It was a self-contained story, but ITV liked the format so much that they've brought it back, this time with Stephen Moyer and Zoe Tapper taking the lead roles, but playing different characters. Moyer is ex-police officer Tom Brook, while Tapper is his partner Sam, and together they run a safe house situated by Anglesey's rugged coastline. Tom continues to be dogged by 'the one show got away', a serial kidnapper known as The Crow. So when, after years of silence, the villain to be up to his old tricks again, Tom becomes obsessed with bringing him to justice.

FRIDAY
Cold Feet
ITV, 9pm
After last year's hugely successful reboot, Adam, Jenny, Pete, Karen and David are back. And as usual there are plenty of ups and downs in store for the Mancunian friends. After finally getting together at the end of the last series, Adam and his landlady Tina have spent the last 10 months being completely loved up. He is keen to take their relationship to the next level, but will she jump in with both feet? Thankfully, Pete has overcome his depression and problems with money, and is now earning a tidy living as a chauffeur. His wife Jenny is also flourishing in her job, but has she taken her eye off the ball with her marriage? Elsewhere, Karen is getting ready to launch her publishing house and its debut novel, and David's ready to find love again.

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Brandhall Golf Club

LICENSING ACT 2003
NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO VARY A PREMISES LICENCE

An application for the variation of a Premises Licence has been made by Rajinder S Daley on behalf of Brandhall Golf Club Committee to Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council in respect of premises known as Brandhall Golf and Social Club which are situated at Heron Road, Oldbury, West Midlands B68 8AQ. The proposed variation is as follows:
Sale of alcohol from 0800 hrs to 0100 hrs seven days per week. A record of the application may be inspected at Trading Standards and Licensing Section, 4th Floor, Court House, 335-337 High Street, West Bromwich B70 8LU during normal office hours Monday to Friday.
Any representations by interested parties of responsible authorities regarding the application must be made in writing to: Trading Standards & Licensing, Homes & Communities Directorate, Sandwell Council House, PO Box 2372, Oldbury B69 3BS, by: 28th September 2017.
It is an offence, liable on summary conviction to a fine up to Level 5 (£5000) on the standard scale, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with the application.

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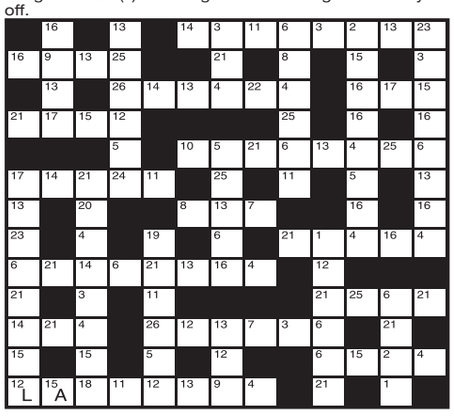
BRAIN GYM

No.445

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15 A
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12 L	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	L	G	D	Y	T	O	A	K	I	X	V	M
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
P	B	J	C	Q	H	E	Z	R	U	F	W	S

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

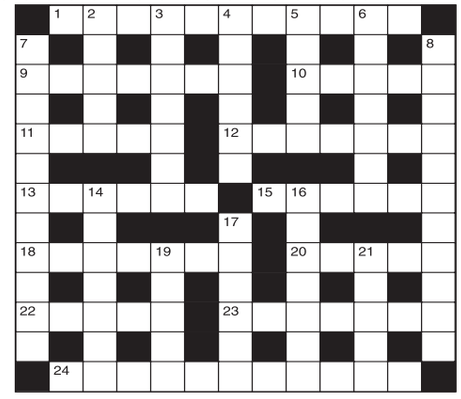
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. To succeed in tackling a part is a fine achievement (11)
9. Makes climbing excursions, but stumbles (5,2)
10. Draw a ship partly at the mercy of the waves (5)
11. Letter E in that translation (5)
12. Jersey in troubled waters around the far end of France (7)
13. Bill may be seen in front of this placard (6)
15. A press arrangement is scanty (6)
18. Definite measures of length for those going to roost (7)
20. Important arterial way in Australia or Tasmania (5)
22. Made an assessment of fluctuation in trade (5)
23. Give the reason for former monetary unit? (7)
24. Then in great confusion using intimidation (11)

Down

2. Chemical produced from an underground working (5)
3. Having attended to one's affairs with a will (7)
4. Take up a different attitude for sleep (6)
5. What one produces on reflection (5)
6. Part of the book associated with the dean (7)
7. Government documents for daily publication in America (5,6)
8. Foremen including a deck labourer in accusations (11)
14. An abrasion is no handicap (7)
16. Drama writer produces 'Enclosure for the Young' (7)
17. A track made by the climber (6)
19. Hog seen by the side of the road (5)
21. Debauchee going to northern city in France (5)



Quick Clues:

Across

1. In vogue (11)
9. Full of holes (7)
10. Bizarre (5)
11. Sudden fright (5)
12. Schoolmaster (7)
13. Tidily (6)
15. Standing (6)
18. Ignorant (7)
20. Don (3,2)
22. Tendency (5)
23. Bishopric (7)
24. Rule (11)

Down

2. Append (3,2)
3. Spiral (7)
4. Singularity (6)
5. Smell (5)
6. Shoe fastening (7)
7. Nearness (11)
8. Stood for (11)
14. Non-professional (7)
16. Hurricane (7)
17. Infrequently (6)
19. Helped (5)
21. Handle (5)

Sudoku

		9		6				3
	8	4			2			
1			4	8	9			5
	9				6	3		
8		2				6		4
		7	8		4		9	
			1	2	3			9
	2		6			4	1	
5								6

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

1	7	5	9	4	3	6	2	8
6	2	3	7	5	8	9	1	4
8	9	4	6	2	1	5	3	7
7	1	8	3	9	2	4	6	5
9	5	6	4	1	7	3	8	2
4	3	2	8	6	5	1	7	9
3	8	1	5	7	4	2	9	6
2	4	9	1	8	6	7	5	3
5	6	7	2	3	9	8	4	1

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Hornpipe; 5 Poop; 9 Fair; 10 Idealist; 11 Sisal; 12 Lattice; 13 Television set; 18 Register; 19 Site; 20 Acclaim; 21 Seems; 22 Oils; 23 Druggist. Down: 2 Opaline; 3 Narrate; 4 Paddle steamer; 6 Origins; 7 Patient; 8 Tattoo; 13 Tornado; 14 Logical; 15 Vistas; 16 Nest-egg; 17 Entombs.
QUICK - Across: 1 Continue; 5 Tsar; 9 Stun; 10 Distress; 11 Comic; 12 Twinkle; 13 Pronouncement; 18 Restrain; 19 Sage; 20 Treason; 21 Rivet; 22 Seem; 23 Alienate.
Down: 2 Outdoor; 3 Tension; 4 Unintentional; 6 Speckle; 7 Respect; 8 Strike; 13 Pirates; 14 Obscene; 15 Onrush; 16 Mission; 17 Neglect.

Quiz

1. In the Christian church, what is another name for the Lord's Supper?
2. Which hat is named after a former Moroccan capital?
3. What bears the inscription Decus et tutamen, 'an ornament and a safeguard'?
4. What would we normally call ortho-sulpho benzamide?
5. Which Beyond The Fringe satirist died in January 1995?
6. Which musical post was first held by Nicholas Lanier in 1626?
7. Which spirit is named from the Dutch for 'burnt wine'?
8. What is the capital of Slovakia?
9. In which county is Greenham Common?
10. Which famous children's novel was written by Johanna Spyri?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Bindweed; 2 The poppy; 3 The brain; 4 Medusa; 5 Harrods; 6 Richmond, Virginia; 7 Marilyn Monroe; 8 1986; 9 Pathology; 10 Walter Matthau.

Niner: BACTERIUM

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

324487 gives a country,
81987 gives a second country,
7365187 gives a third country.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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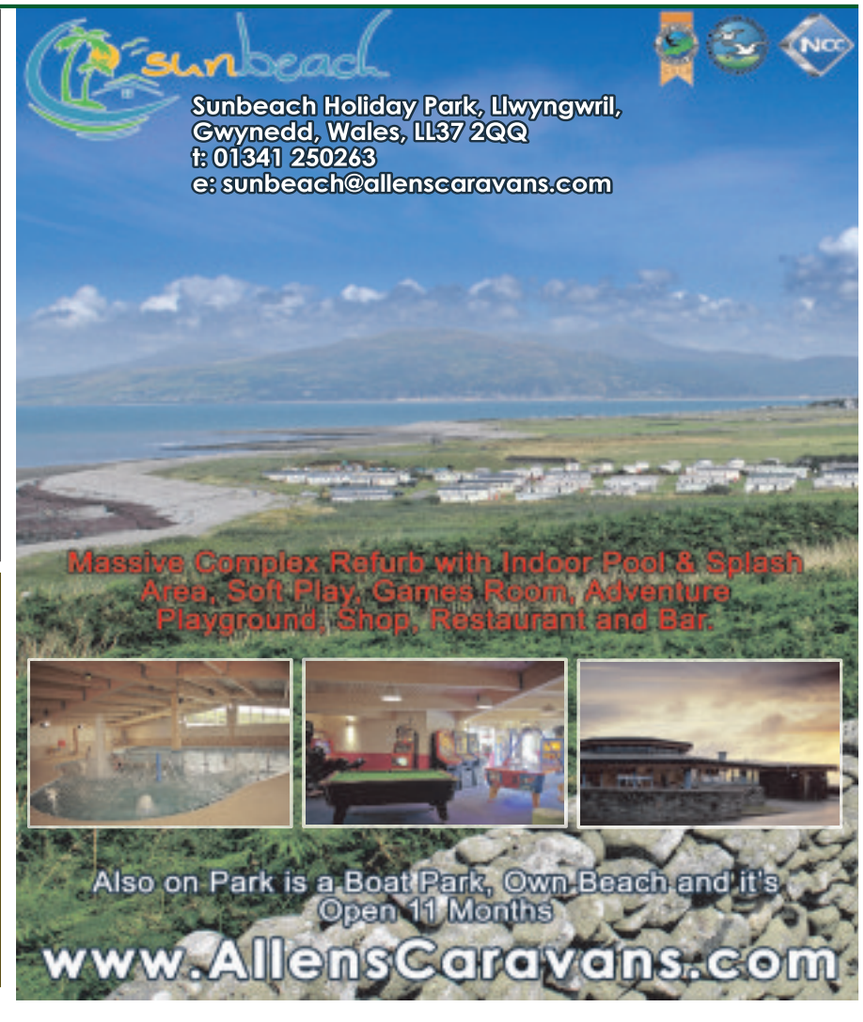

The Crown is still reigning champ

There's one thing they never tell you about having kids, and that's to always order the salad.

When everyone around you is chowing down on a roast dinner or burger and chips, the salad might seem like a rather depressing choice. However, ordering the leaves is a must because you will inevitably also eat your child's food.

"What? You don't want that indulgently delicious goose fat roast potato?" Mummy will have it. "Rare roast beef going spare?" Yum, yum, yum. Before you know it you've eaten your own dinner plus the almost-adult sized portion of food sitting untouched in front of your one-year-old who prefers to throw crayons on the floor than eat.

Suspecting this would be the case, I ordered the salad when we visited The Crown at Wergs one Sunday lunch time, declining a delicious-sounding roast in favour of a plate of leaves.

Roasted tomato salad with burrata and basil pistou

Country feel – the perfect spot for Sunday lunch

BRISK

The elegantly furnished gastro-pub was doing a brisk Sunday trade with couples and families tucking in to tasty-looking food. Service was friendly and, on arrival, we were quickly seated, offered the menu and a highchair was sorted for our daughter.

The menu is vast and features everything from starters and sharing boards to pizzas, pastas, burgers and fish dishes. There was a separate menus of chef's specials, as well as a generous Sunday roast offering. There's even a kid's menu which doesn't just serve the identikit offerings of fish fingers/chicken nuggets, chips and beans options.

The other half already had his heart set on a roast dinner so was delighted that choices included pork, beef, chicken and fig and dolcelatte nut roast for veggies. With a little one in tow, time was of the essence – the window in which she'll sit happily is pretty small without having to resort to episodes of Peppa Pig on the iPhone – so we were keen to place our orders.

We chose some bread and olives to keep hunger at bay while we awaited our main course dishes. Our daughter, Edie, made light work of the olives while my partner and I enjoyed the toasted bread dipped in quality olive oil and balsamic vinegar.

With a bit of down time to take in our surroundings before the main courses arrived, we noted the rustic chic interior so typical of this type of pub. And there's an open-style kitchen where you can see the chef at work.

The food arrived and looked superb. The other half chose the pork loin roast while we ordered a mini beef roast dinner for our little girl. I, meanwhile, chose the slow-roasted heirloom tomato salad with brown rice, quinoa, edamame beans, baby kale, basil pistou and burrata, topped with griddled halloumi. I was a little disappointed, particularly at its size; it seemed a bit measly for a main course dish, particularly with its £12 price tag. However, I consoled myself with the knowledge that I'd be tucking into my daughter's giant Yorkshire pud very soon.

The grilled halloumi was a bit cold, slighty rubbery, and I'd argue that the tomatoes were raw rather than roasted, but that aside the rest of the ingredients were sublime. There was little room for dessert, which was quite fortunate seeing as Edie had had her fill of sitting still. The bill was just shy of £50 and included a large bottle of sparkling water and a 250ml glass of sauvignon blanc.

EMILY BRIDGEWATER

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Three-bedroomed semi-detached is close to amenities

For sale through Skitts Estate Agents of Tipton, Sandwell, this three-bedroomed semi-detached home in Bunns Lane, Dudley, is located a short distance away from local schools, amenities and travel links.

It has an asking price of £139,950.

Having the benefit of gas central heating and double-glazed windows throughout, the property has a driveway with parking for multiple cars, a garage and a good-sized rear garden.

Its accommodation comprises of a porch, entrance hall, a lounge, a dining room, a kitchen, a garage, three bedrooms, a bathroom, a driveway and a rear garden.

In more detail the driveway leads to the garage. The entrance hallway has stairs off to the first floor. The lounge overlooks the frontage and has under-stairs storage. It also has a door into the dining room, which in turn has a sliding door into the rear garden and an archway into the kitchen.

The kitchen, which has views over the rear garden, also has a door into the rear garden, a door into the garage, a range of wall and base units, a sink with drainer and mixer tap and plumbing for a washing machine.

Upstairs, off the first floor landing, bedroom one has a window overlooking the front and a door opening to a storage cupboard.

Bedroom two also overlooks the frontage of the property, while bedroom three overlooks the rear garden. The bathroom has a window to the rear, a bath with a shower over, a wash hand basin and a low level WC.

The garage has access to the boiler. To the rear, the garden is long and includes a patio area and a lawn.

Skitts estate agents began in 1979 as a partnership and has proudly remained so for over 37 years. This means the people who own the company, run the company on a daily basis and are responsible for all aspects of its growth, success and professionalism. Currently, the four partners oversee eight branches and 30 staff across the West Midlands region and as such, are one of the largest independent sales and letting agencies in the area.

DUDLEY £139,950

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KEY FEATURES

- Semi-detached
- 3 bedrooms
- Excellent driveway parking
- Good sized rear garden
- Near travel links

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Willenhall Street, Darlaston
AUCTION — Guide Price £80,000

2 | 3 | 1 | EPC E

Vicarage Road, West Bromwich
AUCTION — Guide price £85,000

1 | 2 | 1 | EPC TBC

Cedar Road, Wednesbury
AUCTION — Guide Price £115,000

2 | 3 | 1 | EPC E

Hawkswood Drive, Wednesbury
NEW — £179,950

1 | 3 | 1 | EPC TBC

Rowland Hill Drive, Tipton
NEW — £109,950

1 | 2 | 1 | EPC TBC

St Helens Avenue, Tipton
O/O £160,000

1 | 3 | 2 | EPC C

Gough Drive, Tipton
NEW — £309,950

1 | 4/5 | 3 | EPC B

Westbury Avenue, Wednesbury
NEW — £110,000

1 | 3 | 1 | EPC TBC

Vicarage Road, Wednesbury
NEW — £149,950

1 | 2 | 1 | EPC D

Lyttleton Street, West Bromwich
NEW — £179,950

2 | 3 | 2 | EPC B

Kyngston Road, West Bromwich
NEW — £224,950

1 | 2 | 2 | EPC B

Bunns Lane, Dudley
NEW — £139,950

2 | 3 | 1 | EPC TBC

Rugeley Close, Tipton FEES APPLY
£400 PCM

1 | 1 | 1 | EPC D

Horseley Road, Tipton FEES APPLY
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2 | 2 | 1 | EPC E

Blenheim Drive, Wednesbury FEES APPLY
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DEFINITION OF RESERVE PRICE
The reserve price is the seller's minimum acceptable price at auction and the figure below which the auctioneer cannot sell. It is usual, but not always the case that a provisional reserve is agreed between the seller and the auctioneer at the start of marketing and the Final Reserve Price will be agreed between the auctioneer and the seller prior to the auction sale. Whilst the reserve price is confidential it will usually be set within the quoted guide range and in any event will not exceed the highest quoted guide price.

22 PARKHEAD ROAD, DUDLEY
GUIDE PRICE £40,000 - £47,000 (+FEES)

21 KING STREET, HALESOWEN
GUIDE PRICE £60,000 - £65,000 (+FEES)

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195 HOLYHEAD ROAD, HANDSWORTH
GUIDE PRICE £90,000 - £97,000 (+FEES)

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Guide: £30,000+ (plus fees)

49 Thetford Road, Great Barr
3 Bed Semi-Detached House
Guide: £90,000+ (plus fees)

87 Broadway, Walsall
Substantial 3 Bed Detached House
Guide: £250,000+ (plus fees)

6 Cygnet Road, West Bromwich
3 Bed Semi-Detached House
Guide: £39,000-£44,000 (plus fees)

26 Bromford Close, Handsworth
First Floor Studio Apartment
Guide: £15,000-£19,000 (plus fees)

6 Slack Lane, Handsworth Wood
1 Bed House with Development Potential Subject to Planning
Guide: £20,000+ (plus fees)

71 Castle Road, Tipton
3 Bed Detached Dormer Bungalow
Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)

31 Marsh Lane, West Bromwich
2 Bed End Terraced House
Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)

8 Lilac Grove, Walsall
2 Bed Semi-Detached House
Guide: £65,000+ (plus fees)

20 Packwood Cl., Handsworth Wood
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- STUNNING PERIOD FEATURES
- EPC RATING: E
- ENCLOSED FRONTAGE
- 15 MINUTES DRIVE TO CENTRAL

Repton Road, Bordesley, B9 5UJ

NEW INSTRUCTION

Guide Price £149,950.00

- NEWLY REFURBISHED THREE BEDROOM HOME
- BRAND NEW KITCHEN & BATHROOM FITTED
- LARGE FRONT RECEPTION ROOM
- EPC RATING: C

Belmont Road, Smethwick, B66 4EL

NEW INSTRUCTION

Guide Price £139,950.00

- THREE BEDROOM MID-TERRACED HOME
- LOVELY FEATURES THROUGHOUT
- WALKING DISTANCE OF BEARWOOD HIGH ST
- EPC RATING: D

Beechfield Road, Smethwick, B67 6BT

NEW INSTRUCTION

Guide Price £119,950.00

- THREE BEDROOM MID-TERRACED HOME
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- WALKING DISTANCE OF LOCAL AMENITIES
- EPC RATING: E

Grainger Street, Dudley, DY2 8LG

NEW INSTRUCTION

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- EPC RATING: E

Ellerside Grove, Northfield, B31 2RA

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Guide Price £104,950.00

- GROUND FLOOR 2 BEDROOM MAISONETTE
- MODERN & STYLISH THROUGHOUT
- TWO WARM & WELL DECORATED BEDROOMS
- EPC RATING: D

Endwood Court, Birmingham, B20 2RZ

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- TOP FLOOR 2 BEDROOM APARTMENT
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- EPC RATING: F

Florence Road, Oldbury, B69 2DW

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- THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED HOME
- SPACIOUS GARDEN MASSIVE POTENTIAL
- ORGANISED KITCHEN AND BATHROOM
- EPC RATING: E

Springfield Road, Halesowen, B62 8JZ

Offers in Excess of £144,950.00

- THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED PROPERTY
- BRIGHT AND SPACIOUS LIVING ROOM
- REQUIRES MODERNISATION
- EPC RATING: D

Chester Road, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5HU

Offers in Excess of £129,950.00

- SECOND FLOOR TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT
- EN-SUITE TO MASTER BEDROOM
- OPEN PLAN LIVING AND KITCHEN AREA
- EPC RATING: C

St Michaels Mews, Oldbury, B69 2LJ

Offers in Excess of £54,950.00

- SECOND FLOOR ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT
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- TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS
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- Gutter Replacement & Cleaning

30 YEARS' EXPERIENCE
FREE QUOTATIONS

Roofing

A1 Little Job Man

(Part of the Imperial Residential Group)
Over 35 years experience

- Fast Roof Repairs • Felt Work & Guttering
- New Roofs Chimneys & Valleys
- uPVC Fascias & Guttering FREE Quotes
- All Building Work Undertaken
- All Work Guaranteed • All Areas Covered

0121 553 3020

ELITE PLASTICS

- Fascias • Sofits • Dry Verge
- Pointing • Gutter Cleaning And Repair

Premium Products Expertly Fitted With Full Manufacture Guarantee.
For A Free Quote call
01384 468831 / 07985 575865
www.eliteplasticsupvc.co.uk

Rubbish Removal

ROB'S RUBBISH

EST. SINCE 1992
A CHEAP RUBBISH REMOVAL 7 DAYS
Small Jobs NO PROBLEM
We load, No Skips, Free Estimates
Garden, Household, Shed, Garage, Fridges, White Goods, House Clearances, Furniture
0121 500 6033
07938 207122

ALWAYS V.S.K. RUBBISH REMOVAL

Household Waste, Shed & Garage Clearance, House & Garden Clearance, Tree Felling, Also Conifers Lopped
0121-532 2392
FREE QUOTES
West Bromwich

Wrought Iron

Holt Ornamental Ironwork

Gates, Railings, Stairways, Garden Balconies,
07966 526528
www.holtornamentalironwork.co.uk

Skip Hire

RUSSELL'S SKIPS

MINI/MIDI SKIPS
(0121) 520 3388
07721 387990

To advertise your business and reach more than 61,597 potential customers...

1. Call us on... 01902 319590
2. E-mail us at... mark.moore@expressandstar.co.uk
3. Post to... Mark Moore, Sandwell Chronicle, Black Country House, Rounds Green Road, Oldbury B69 2DG

Classified Ads

Buy Local, **Sell** Local

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FreeAds

IT'S FREE IT'S EASY

For items up to **£250**

VISIT:

bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

Simply press the free ad icon.
Sorry, no pets, guns or livestock.
Private advertisers only.

Place a paid for advert

By Phone 01902 317878
8.30am - 5.30pm Mon - Fri.
Closed Sat/Sun and Bank Holidays

Online
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

In person
At your local Express & Star Office.
Cancel/amend, call before 3.00pm Monday - Friday for the next day's advertisement or also before 3.00pm Friday for Monday's advertisement.

funeral directors

Turn To Us For Help and Support

In your time of need we'll take care of all the funeral arrangements.

• Est. 1907
• 24 hour service

G. Gibbs
Funeral Directors
44 All Saints Way
West Bromwich B71 1PZ
0121 553 0442

Dignity
Part of Dignity plc. A British Company.

lost & found

MISSING, FAMILY CAT

Last seen August 14, on Dartmouth Road, Cannock.

Could be on Manor Avenue/Wolverhampton Road.

Please check sheds, bushes and gardens as cat is very timid.

She is chipped. No collar. Approx 8 years old.

Reward if found safely.

Call 07539 834411.

2 Leisure Time

car boot sales

GIANT THURSDAY CAR BOOT SALE
This Thursday and every Thursday
6am - 2pm at
Mill Lane, Saredon WV10 7LJ
Tel: 07831 192 116

CAR BOOT SALES!
Every Sunday
and Bank Holiday Monday
Muckley Corner, Hall Lane, Lichfield, WS14 0BE
Booters £4
6.00am-2pm
07538 842842

caravans / motorhomes

A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW 35x12 caravans from £10,000.Gym Par 3 golf, bowls, why go further? www.bcpark.co.uk 01584823433

We Want Your Motorhome
Finance Cleared
Fast Secure Payment
Top Prices Paid
Please Call
AEG on 01384 848439 or
Lee Jinks on 07740 895448
www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk

caravans wanted

WANTED ALL CARAVANS
Any age or condition
Also motorhomes wanted.
TOP PRICES PAID
Immediate collection.
CALL THOMAS 07717 280 996
www.tscaravansandmotorhomes.co.uk

jumble sales / fetes

JUMBLE SALE
Saturday, September 2.
at 12 noon.
St. Peter's Church Hall, Whitehall Road, West Bromwich.
Admission 20p.

holidays

travel abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertisers that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

mind, body & soul

massage

MOBILE Aromatherapy Massage Therapist Home / Hotel. To book appointments call 07437 569187.

what's on

antique fairs

ANTIQUE/COLLECTORS FAIR Kinver Comm Centre, Sun 3rd September (inc postcards) (also Bromsgrove every Fri) EST 1979 Waverley. Next Book Fair Sun 17th Sep. Stalls available for all. Home made refreshments. 0121 550 4381

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

3 Home & Services

furniture

katharine house hospice — embracing life and living
Furniture not sold, why not donate it?
Reg charity number: 1011712
We can turn your quality used furniture into 1st class care for patients at Katharine House
Call us now on 01785 760715
for details or to arrange a FREE collection

FURNITURE NOT SOLD? Donate it to Katharine House Hospice. We collect for free. Telephone Cannock 01543 466885, Stafford 01785 247630, House clearance service 01785 760715.

Frank Bosworth
Furniture

IN LIQUIDATION
EVERYTHING MUST GO
All Fashion Beds - Sleigh Beds, Metal, Iron and Ottoman Beds
PLUS UPTO 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT (SUBJECT TO STATUS)

Over 1000 Mattresses in stock whether its Budgets, Orthopaedic, Memory Foam or Pocket Sprung. We are your One Stop Bed Shop - We manufacture every conceivable mattress at the lowest factory direct prices - Cheap Junior Matts from £29.00 - Medium quality matts from £39.00 - Ortho and Memory Foam from £59.00 - Complete Divan Beds from £79.00 - Fashion & Bunk Beds in designer metal and wood. Ottoman Storage and Drawer Divans - You name it we have got it at the right price made to measure sizes and special requests a speciality. Factory Shop open 7 days major credit cards welcome

LEATHER & FABRIC RECLINER CHAIRS UPTO 70% OFF
DISPLAY MODELS
EG GIVNOR RECLINERIN WINE
WAS £999
NOW £299

SAVE UPTO 50% OFF ON-LINE PRICES

100'S OF LEATHER & FABRIC SOFAS, CORNER SUITES AND RECLINER SUITES - MANY HALF PRICE

Open Everyday 10am-6pm — OPEN SUNDAY 10AM - 4PM

BFC FACTORY OUTLET
CONEYGRE ROAD IND EST, GREAT BRIDGE RD, TIPTON DY4 8XF.
OFF A461 2 MINS FROM NEW TESCO & TOBY CARVERY
0121 557 6885
VISA — INTEREST FREE CREDIT (T/C'S APPLY) — MasterCard

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL
01902 317878

ClassifiedAds

household appliances

A ONE OFF BIG SALE
Cookers, Fires, Autos, Tumble dryers, Built in ovens, Hobs, Fridge freezers, lots more at low prices.
01902 403770
Past & Present
24 - 26 church street, Bilston (opposite town hall).

in your garden

BLOXWICH FENCING
Supply and Fit or DIY
Credit cards taken • Free quotes
WS3 2BQ
Freephone 0500 506041 or 01922 712184

6x5 Lap Panels
£17 each (inc vat)
WS3 2BQ
Bloxwich Fencing Ltd
Freephone 0500 506041 or 01922 712184

items for sale

ASH RECLAMATION
All reclaimed building materials
UPVC doors and windows
New and Used
Gatehouse Trading Est.
Lichfield Road, Brownhills, WS8 6JZ
01543 453222
07956 627367

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

ASH RECLAMATION new and used building materials, upvc doors and windows 01543 453222.

GARAGE SALE 10am, Saturday, August 26, 19 Lodge Road, Pelsall, WS4 1DE.
Call 07976 204249.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

items wanted

A Genuine Lady Buyer!
Cash paid £300+ per ounce for 9 car at scrap gold. Any amount collected!
Sovereigns £200+ each, Watches, Coins, Medals & more
Highly Recommended!
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

loans

READERS ARE REMINDED that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

pc's, laptops & accessories

CLIENT COMPUTERS

Certified technician & Microsoft partner.
Repair & maintain laptops and PCs. In West Midlands.
Virus removal, broken screens, wifi.
Windows problems etc.
Home visits or bring to me.
Long established.
Laptops available.
0121 556 9481

CLIENT COMPUTERS Certified technician and microsoft partner. Repair and maintain laptops and pcs. Virus removal, broken screens, wifi, windows problem etc. Laptops available. 0121 556 9481

photography & camcorders

SIGMA 150-600 LENS, contemporary F5-6.3 DG OSHSM for Canon, used twice, excellent condition, £585. 07855 103494.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc, CCTV cameras supplied & fitted. Any area. Free Estimates. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

specialists at your service

aerials

THANK YOU CLASSIFIEDS!

"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

AA DIGITAL AERIALS Checkatrade.com
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
01902 858191 • 01384 429166
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST CCTV cameras fitted/tv wallmount, free quote/any area. 07850 330251

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £249
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

appliance repairs

A SAME DAY REPAIR - Cookers Autos Fridges Vacs and Micros. Call 07795 651050 / 07801 746853.

bathrooms

BATHROOM DESIGN All bathrooms fitted, tiling, flooring, complete bathrooms: 07850 382548.

building supplies

QUALITY DOORS AND HARDWOOD FLOORING @ low prices. Call Arnold Laver 0121 533 5428.

RECLAIMED BRICKS, Tiles, Slates, Oakbeams, Flooring, York Stone. Cawarden 01889 574066. sales@cawardenreclaim.co.uk

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years exp
All aspects of building work
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

AD DAMP PROOFING
APPROVED CONTRACTOR
All damp problems, roofing, building & plastering work
FREE QUOTES
07538 118034 or 01902 752161

A GRIFFITHS ROOFING & BUILDING Pitched & flat roofs. repairs, chimneys, fascias, guttering. 35 yrs exp. 07941 907401/01902 865771.

carpentry & joinery

CARPENTRY AND JOINERY Kitchens, fitted wardrobes, doors, flooring, staircases and refurbs. 07903 234137 or 0121 4939733.

carpet fitters

A CARPETS & VINYLS supplied or just fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quotes call Mark 01543 820598 / 07941 619694.

fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards **£695**
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

THANK YOU CLASSIFIEDS!

"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."

Michael- Portway Fencing

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

gas fitting

GH PLUMBING
Free Quotes, Gas safe services. Luxury bathrooms supplied & fitted. Landlord Certs. Service & repairs, power flushing, boiler replacements, full central heating systems
07921 800665 | www.ghplumbingltd.co.uk

GAS SERVICES
• Boilers • Cookers
• Fires • Gas Checks
• Landlord Certificates
• Gas Leaks Traced
Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

gardening services

Landywood Tree & Landscaping Services
All garden work, tree felling/lopping, pruning, hedges trimmed, turf, patios, fencing, block-paving etc.
www.landywoodlandscaping.co.uk
01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976

H. COOPER & SON Landscaping / garden maintenance. No job too small. Free Quotes: 07904 929632.

J&B TREE CARE Landscape and Jetwashing Services. All Pesticide /Fungicide work. Free fixed quotes: 07786 166856/ 01922 449268.

gates

ALL METAL GATES,RAILINGS, etc. Free quotes, also repairs & fitting. 07903 500642 24 hours.

DARLASTON FABS 30 years exp in supplying/ fitting gates and railings. Free quotes: 07497 667752.

handyman services

THANK YOU CLASSIFIEDS!

I average around 1 to 2 phone calls a day from customers as a direct result of my Classified Advertising. I am very happy with my response levels.
Mr Causer.

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN
FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed, Most trades covered, References available on request. No job too big or too small!
CALL MIKE: 07947 621047
0121 6010479

HANDY MAN - Most trades, plumbing, heating, gardening & decorating. Gutter clean no ladders, free quotes. 07850 559315.

LOCK & CARPENTRY Plumbing, Small job specialist. Free quotes 01902 683100 or 07934 460864.

house clearances

A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE
Full, part and single rubbish removed.
Garage and sheds cleared. Leather 3 piece suites and leather chesterfields wanted.
01922 492007

A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE
Full, part and single rubbish removed.
Garage and sheds cleared. Leather 3 piece suites and leather chesterfields wanted.
01922 492007

ALL ROUND CLEARANCE
Professional family run business
House clearances full or part, also garages, sheds etc.
Telephone Kev
07794 912844

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

kitchen fitters

THE KITCHEN FITTER Over 20 years experience. Call 07881 654757 or 01543 373233.

lock services

LOCKRITE local father and daughter locksmiths, lock-outs, broken locks, UPVC specialist, 24hr service. 01922 780078.

painters / decorators

C&D DECORATING City & Guilds / Wallpapering, Tiling and Flooring. Free quotes, call 07973 286288.

LADY DECORATOR Full house or one wall to customer requirements. Free quotes call: 07522 643706.

plans prepared

ADAM DESIGN, Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

plastering

MINT PLASTERING
For the very best in plastering and rendering, full rooms inc materials from 110. Halls, stairs and landings from 200
30 years experience.
Free quotes. All work guaranteed
01922 606503 / 07519 694516

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING Services. Home/Garden Improvements.Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

MINT PLASTERING & rendering 30 yrs exp. All work guaranteed. 01922 606503 or 07519 694516.

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE Clean and Reliable, All Work Undertaken, All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

plumbing & heating

ALL PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN
No job too small or large.
Call Will for a free quote
07521 411108

A.A HEATING & PLUMBING All gas work. Install/ Service/ Repair. 01922 660410 or 07540 950588.

PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN No job too small or large. Call Will for a free quote on: 07521 411108.

removals

KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS AND HOUSE CLEARANCES
We move anything. Professional service, 45 years' experience, DFS approved and we take the stress away.
Please call:
07966 281957

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

KC REMOVALS We beat any quote, full or part loads, all areas. Anything considered. Call on 07867 862227.

KT REMOVALS 12 yrs exp. Single items to full load removals. Local / distance. Call Ric: 07771 727119.

roofing

We specialise in:
New Roofing, Re Roofing, Leak Repairs, Emergency Repairs, Lead Work, Tiling and Slating.
07476 834512 0121 4204374
www.stoppsandpage.co.uk

rubbish removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed.Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

skip hire

AAA SKIP HIRE All sizes available, competitive prices. Call: 01922 711411(option 2) or 07592 940556.

STONES SKIP HIRE 0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875 www.stonesskiphire.co.uk

A absolute affordable skip
RUSSELL SKIPS
Mini, midi skips
Prompt delivery / collection
(0121) 520 3388 / 07721 387990

MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE
Save £££s
All size skips and all areas covered
Same day delivery faster than a phone call!!!
Open 7 days a week
SCRAP CARS REMOVED FOR FREE
07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56

GOLDSHILL SKIPS
Bring your own waste cheaper than skips. General, Green, Wood waste any size vehicle. Phone for prices:
0121 557 3346

upholstery

MR B'S UPHOLSTERY
RE- UPHOLSTERING OF SOFA'S, DINING FURNITURE, CARAVANS, CAR RETRIMS AND MORE.
www.mrbsupholstery.co.uk
01543 500677 07738 851601

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

CHIHUAHUA BITCH 3½ years old, tri colour, smooth coat, lovely temperament. Genuine reason for sale. £200. 07981 927858.

POODLE DOG SPECIALIST
Clipping and Grooming.
Free Quotes Call:
07855 405022 or
01543 876145

WEDNESBURY SANCTUARY needs homes for rescue kittens and cats. 0121 502 5027.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

business directory

commercial premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

6 Property

accommodation to let

J9 Accommodation
NO DEPOSIT
★MOVE IN TODAY★
Studios *from* £90pw*
Rooms *from* £65pw*
*Includes Most Bills
CHECK WEBSITE FOR LIVE LIST
Midland Landlord Accreditation Scheme
01902 213121
J9accommodation.com

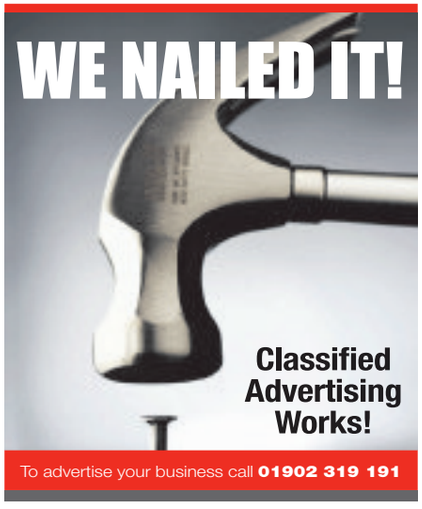
NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

STAFFORD Oxford Gardens, 3 bed, furnished house, references essential. Must like gardening. 07939 841947.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.



To advertise your business call 01902 319 191

properties wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!
FAST 4 Your House CASH
You agree the price, we buy the house...
• NO AGENTS FEES • COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
• FREE SOLICITORS • ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION
BLACK COUNTRY HOMES
0800 999 999 6
01384 500 500
30 yrs
www.black-countryhomes.co.uk * subject to terms

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089
Sandwell area: Call 01021 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

For great business results call
01902 319 191

THANK YOU CLASSIFIEDS!
"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising! Our directory page on expressandstar.com has generated extra activity on our website."
Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

7 Jobs

building & construction

APPRENTICES WANTED FOR ROOFING CONTRACTOR
to work on new build housing projects in the Midlands. Full training given including day release to construction college in order to obtain relevant qualifications in the trade. Ideally applicants need to be 17-19 years of age, fit, healthy and motivated and located in the Oldbury / Rowley area.
Contact Keen Roofing Ltd
0121 523 3255
or e-mail
rob.keen@keenroofing.co.uk

engineering

SKILLED FABRICATOR /WELDER required. Permanent position. Tipton area. Call 0121 520 4960.

WSP
Have opportunities for
RAIL ENGINEERING DESIGN TECHNICIAN APPRENTICE
supporting our engineers who design systems for the railway. To apply you should ideally have at least 5 GCSE's with good grades, one of which should be in Maths and you should be interested in using technology for design work, calculations and testing.
Please see our website for more information
www.wsp.com/gofar

childcare

NVQ LEVEL 3 NURSERY NURSE required for Nursery in Quinton / Oldbury. Call 0121 421 6496

dentistry

DENTAL NURSES AND RECEPTIONISTS required, GDC registered, Flexible hours F/T, P/T available - 7 days per week (8am - 11pm) Wage 12K - 20 k - negotiable, overtime & bonuses Immediate starts Apprenticeships available email CV info@scottarmsdentalpractice.com

full time - general

DUE TO EXPANSION
Rainbow Upholstery
have full time vacancies for
Upholsterers
for track work.
Upholstery Cutters
Sewers
Cushion Fillers
& Band Saw Operators.
Telephone 0121 561 5386
or send CV to
Rainbow Upholstery,
1-4 Marlow Street,
Rowley Regis, B65 0AY. or
email martin@
rainbowupholstery.co.uk

EXPERIENCED TRANSPORT PLANNER West Bromwich. K J J Transport Services. We have an excellent opportunity for a Transport Planner to become part of our operation. The successful applicant must have experience working in a busy transport control office. Email louise@kjjtransportservices.co.uk

SPRAYER
Sprayer for bespoke joinery and timber furniture in various stains, lacquers and paints for a high end shop fitting company.
Applicant must be experienced in all available products AC, Pre Cat, PU etc
Good rates of pay immediate start.
Please email CV to
rs@espirituk.com

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

C2 VTS 1600 08, 61,000 Miles, Red, electric windows, air con, long MoT, central locking, pas. Good runner and condition.£1,600 ono 01543 878132

LOW MILEAGE
HONDA CIVIC
2013, petrol,
MoT March 2018,
26,840 miles,
£6,600.
01922 698185.

KIA SPORTAGE
1.7CRDi ISG4 (top spec)
2015/65 reg, 12,300 miles, excellent, one owner. None better at this price, warranty until 2022.
Sunroof, sat nav, reversing camera, parrallel parking, bluetooth, voice recognition, , Diamond Bright etc etc.
£15,950.
07943 347562.

FILL YOUR NEXT VACANCY FOR ONLY £59+VAT

PRICE INCLUDES:
- 5 line advert (18-20 words)
- Two night package in Express & Star on Thursday and Saturday
- One week in local Chronicle of your choice
- Four week listing on jobs.expressandstar.com

For more information call
Tracey Thompson on 01902 319645 or email:
tracey.thompson@expressandstar.co.uk
MNA Recruitment

Classified Ads

EXCELLENT CONDITION

LANDROVER DISCOVERY TD5
manual, 2001, 12 months MoT, 112,000 miles, excellent condition,
£1,650.
07708 832841.

MINI COOPER
2006, 38,300 miles, blue, abs, electric windows, air bag, air con, long MoT, metallic paint, central locking, pas, alloys, spots, DAB Bluetooth CD radio.
£4,495 ono.
07704 874861.

MUST BE SEEN

RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE TOMTOM DCi
2011, 49,000 miles, 1461cc, blue, air con, sat nav, MoT to May 2018, lovely condition.
£4,999. o.n.o.
01922 415488/07517 112534

PRESTIGE

ROLLS ROYCE SILVER SPIRIT
1985,
12 months MoT,
fair condition for its age.
Genuine calls only please.
£4,750.
07854 986550.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

cars under £1500

VOLKSWAGEN POLO AUTO
1996, 108,863 Miles, White, electric windows, air bag, MoT.
£400
01922 613529

commercial vehicles

BARGAIN

FORD CONNECT T200
PANEL VAN
173,000 miles, 2007, MoT,
New cam belt.
£1,950.
07768 841443.

FORD TRANSIT double cab tipper T350, 09 Reg., 5T ram. 11 months MoT. Very good condition. £4,250 ono. 07836 568903.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

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public & legal notices

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Planning
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

This is a major application.

DC/17/60927	Premium Care Investments Limited	Former Church Of God Of Prophecy 72 Regent Street Smethwick B66 3BH	Proposed external alterations and change of use from a place of worship to 11 No. self-contained apartments.

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE (between 8.45a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.45a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

MR JAN BRITTON, Chief Executive

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The council proposes to make **The Sandwell Borough Council (David Harman Drive, West Bromwich) (20mph Zone) Order 2017** to: 1) Prohibit any vehicle exceeding a speed of 20mph on the sections of roads highlighted in grey on drawing number 39469. 2) The provisions of this Order shall not apply to:- any vehicle on occasion when it is being used for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes, if the observance of that provision would be likely to hinder the use of the vehicle for the purpose for which it is being used on that occasion, or to a vehicle being used: (a) for Serious Organised Crime Agency purposes, or (b) for training persons to drive vehicles for use of Serious Organised Crime purposes. However, (except where it is being used for training the person by whom it is being driven), the exemption does not apply in relation to a vehicle unless it is being driven by a person who has been trained in driving vehicles at high speeds. 3) The Order shall not apply to a vehicle if it is a vehicle used for the naval military or air force purposes and that vehicle it is being driven by a person or a member of the armed forces of the Crown on an occasion when:- (a) the person driving the vehicle is a member of the Special Forces as defined in the Road Traffic Exemptions (Special Forces) (Variation and Amendment) Regulations 2011; and (b) the vehicle is being driven:- (i) in response, or for practice in responding, to a national security emergency by a person who has been trained in driving vehicles at high speeds; or (ii) for the purpose of training a person in driving vehicles at high speeds. Full details may be examined at: Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE during normal office hours. Objections in writing, stating your grounds, to Mr Robin Weare, at Freeth Street address or email to: philip_walton@sandwell.gov.uk by 22/09/2017.

ADRIAN REGINALD WALLACE (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 17 Friar Park Road Wednesbury West Midlands WS10 0TA, who died on 01/08/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 03/11/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
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Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

PAT, 69, young looking, looking for someone for friendship, interests are going out for meals, reading and walking. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428461**

SASKA, kind hearted Asian lady, single and still living with family so seeking very discreet relationship with strong minded man. I am 29yrs but like mature experienced men. **Text Only. Box: 4047094**

HEATHER, 54yrs, slim brunette with petite figure, loves keep fit. Seeks chap for nights out, fun times, must be honest and kind. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428491**

MIA, attractive married lady from Birmingham are, looking to meet a discreet gent, any age, any area for fun times. I am 49yrs old but look younger. **Text Only. Box: 4079581**

VICTORIA, 46yrs, bubbly outgoing nurse, petite pretty brunette. WLTM N/S man, any age, must have GSOH and be kind. ACA. Or text. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428489**

TINA, 47yrs, GSOH and good figure with average looks. I want a similar man, GSOH looks unimportant. Age is but a number. I have no car but can accommodate. **Text Only. Box: 4145368**

ANGELA, attractive 66yr old free minded and spirited lady. Genuine with varied interests seeks gent 65+. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428485**

JANE, new to area, hoping to meet an older gent. I am 38yrs, brunette with boyish leggy figure. N/S with GSOH. I've a good job and small flat which I own. **Text Only. Box: 4099268**

MARIA 44, leggy blonde seeks tall professional male for fun nights out, cosy nights in with plenty of TLC and romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428447**

TRACY, 68yrs, recently retired and has time on her hands. Would love to meet a much much much younger chap for carefree times. **Text Only. Box: 4006039**

DAWN, attractive, easygoing, WLTM mature male for fun loving no strings romance. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428417**

HELLO, my name is Pia, I am a very petite, kind and respectful Asian girl, hoping to meet an older white man. I'm 23yrs old and have just moved her. **Text Only. Box: 4177099**

SALLY young 50, happy go lucky blonde, looking to let her hair down with a happy, down to earth guy with dark hair. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428269**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673**

KATHERINE 39, romantic, slim, feminine, loves to live life to the full, seeks adventurous outgoing male to appreciate and share fun times with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428403**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

CARING, young at heart lady seeks tall caring gent with GSOH for friendship, outings and car drives. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6042252**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

SALLY young 50, happy go lucky blonde, looking to let her hair down with a happy, down to earth guy with dark hair. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428269**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375**

PAM, 40, cuddly feminine young looking female, OHAC, financially secure, looking for fun times without complications with likeminded male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427753**

TAMIKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 422365**

SUE, 47, attractive lonely brunette who loves evenings in/out, music, WLTM someone sincere to love and get close to, why not give me a call? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427549**

SAMANTHA, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. **Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 425979**

TERESA, friendly lady with GSOH, curvy build and attractive looks, 50 something, seeking romantic male 45-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428383**

HARRIETT 42yrs, blue eyed brunette with long lets and decent curves! Looking for a cheeky adventurous man for fun only. I live alone so can accommodate and can travel. Discretion assured. ACA. Give me a try. **Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 426205**

ARE you a gent with GSOH 60-70 and looking for some fun then call me, Leah, I'm 57yrs, slim, attractive and looking for fun. ACA. Or text me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428381**

CARMEL, open minded naughty lady seeks a broad minded strict man to unleash her wilder side. Age/looks unimportant but no time wasters please. **Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 426851**

JANE, 52yrs genuine blue eyed blonde lady WLTM romantic gent for potential relationship. ACA/Text answered so please reply. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428379**

CAROLINE, 42yrs, well educated, sophisticated "some call me posh" married lady, looking for no strings midweek liaisons. **Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box 427533**

LINDA, 48yrs, young looking blonde lady, slim and attractive. Hoping to meet new men friends, call and let's see what happens. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428377**

MARGARET, attractive blonde widow, living alone and hoping to find a nice gentleman soulmate. I have lots to offer so please call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428375**

JOY, mid 50s independent lady, brunette, loves dining out, seeking gent of any age. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428373**

ATTRACTIVE widow, loves life, 60s music, walking and fun. Hoping to meet a similar minded gent 60-80 for life's adventures. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428371**

NICOLA, 37yrs mixed race beauty, just moved to the area from London so a bit lonely. Looks unimportant must have GSOH and be kind. ACA/text answered **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428369**

WANTED, submissive gent by attractive lady 51yrs, please call if you want to know more. Ata **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428367**

ATTRACTIVE lady, young at heart, would like to meet genuine caring guy for coffee and chats, plus days out. **Text only Replies. Mailbox: 6035338**

TAMARA, 44yrs, beautiful Indian lady seeks a Muslim gent 40+ **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428147**

SALLY young 50, happy go lucky blonde, looking to let her hair down with a happy, down to earth guy with dark hair. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428269**

ATTRACTIVE lady 61yrs young. Looking for friendship, maybe more with genuine gent. I'm feminine and curvy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428157**

CHRISTINE, 60 something lady, blue eyed blonde. Sincere, solvent and kind. Call me if you are interested in meeting up. Looks unimportant. Must be N/S. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428155**

I am a 57-year-old lady, 5ft 8ins tall, short brownish hair. I am of medium build, outgoing, caring and WLTM similar male. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6024848**

LADY, 63, WLTM a gentleman of similar age, for friendship and outings. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428029**

ATTRACTIVE widow, attractive, blonde, GSOH, solvent with good figure. All that's missing is a nice man 60+. Call me if you are interested. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428139**

Single Men

CANNOCK Chase male, 70, N/S, 5ft10, single, modern, WLTM slim, attractive, broad minded lady, for casual relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428207**

VERY fit, elderly widower, loves walking, bird watching, exploring Europe, WLTM a lady for companionship. Please reply via box number. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428171**

MALE would like to meet local female 50/60 for mutual friendship. I'm easygoing and have many interests. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 5071056**

COLIN 72, from Burntwood, looking for loving lady for days out, holidays and company. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 4880436**

MALE, 20s, seeks NSA fun with female. I love a laugh, age isn't important. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6042304**

MALE 46, genuine and honest and very caring looking for a LTR with lady. **Text only Replies. Mailbox: 5422168**

MALE 20s, chilled out and happy in life looking for woman to share life with. **Text only Replies. Mailbox: 6034839**

MALE, 47, fit, slim, honest man, seeking nice, slim, honest lady for LTR, going out for drinks and having good times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427923**

MIKE, male, 61, seeks black or Asian lady, any age for adult fun, maybe more. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6010228**

MALE, late 60s, N/S, retired, 5ft9, slim build, enjoys holidays abroad, weekends away, travel, meals out. Looking to meet female, N/S, who enjoys similar interests, to share good times together, for friendship and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428219**

JEFF, 60s, tall, fit, young outlook, N/S, car owner, seeks similar lady for friendship, outings out etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428175**

FUN loving Irish man, seeks relationship, for fun times and going out. Please get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428077**

SINGLE dad, tall, blonde hair, good looking, keeps fit, loves the cinema, meals out, looking for a single lady for date nights. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428163**

MALE, dark hair, dark eyes, slim, 47, likes walking, camping, pubs, dancing, looking for a slim, genuine lady, for fun times and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427831**

HI my name is Jay. I'm looking for a lady to have a lovely evening with, maybe once or twice a week. Looking forward to hearing from you soon. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427927**

JACK 23, single, tall, young looking guy, kind and respectful, seeking female age/looks not important for mutual NSA fun. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6026038**

MALE 64, fit, non-smoker, looking for NSA fun with lady, any age. I am kind and caring but miss the touch of a woman. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6025714**

TALL, dark, attractive male, 56, 6ft, WLTM an attractive female, any age, for discreet fun and intimate times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428109**

MALE, attractive, 6ft2, single father, loves a laugh and a giggle, looking for a lady for evenings out, company and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424303**

MALE, 47, fit, slim, honest man, seeking nice, slim, honest lady for LTR, going out for drinks and having good times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427923**

MALE, dark hair, dark eyes, slim, 47, likes walking, camping, pubs, dancing, looking for a slim, honest lady, for fun times and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427831**

MALE, dark hair, dark eyes, slim, 47, likes walking, camping, pubs, dancing, looking for a slim, honest lady, for fun times and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427831**

I am Kev, 57, looking for a lady in my life. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6023170**

SHAUN, 50, honest, reliable, OHOC, employed, animal lover, likes walks in the country, meals out in country pubs, walking my dogs, looking for my soul mate. If you would like to know more get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427497**

GENTLEMAN, kind, considerate, tactile, thoughtful and caring, hobbies include growing Fuschias and vintage tractors, looking for a country girl, someone with no plans of grandeur. Truth and trust number 1 as I trust you so you tell me the truth, and vice versa. Looking for someone to hold and love forever. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427791**

MALE, 50, brown hair, brown eyes, average looks, 16 and a half stone, good sense of humour, animal lover with loads of love and security to give to the right person. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418783**

MALE 5ft 8ins, average looks, seeking genuine, honest, caring female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413945**

HI my name is Ben. I am 43 years old, 5ft7, slim build, smart dresser, looking for a bored similar lady for naughty texting. **Text only Replies. Mailbox: 6007244**

PHIL 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, OHAC, seeks female, 18 plus for discreet adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401875**

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, August 31, 2017

The 500X rivals many family-sized hatchbacks, with room for five adults

Italian style that appeals to the heart and head

By John Griffiths

Even Fiat must have been surprised by the success of its retro-styled 500 nearly a decade ago.

Cute, stylish and economical, the city car was a faithful but modern interpretation of the cheap and cheerful little model which was a mainstay of the Italian motor industry in the 50s, 60s and 70s, much as the Mini was here.

It was, however, significantly bigger: but perhaps not big enough to satisfy all would-be buyers, especially those with growing families. And so a larger, compact MPV (the 500L) was born and more recently its crossover, or compact SUV sibling the 500X.

Both are instantly recognisable members of the family, with the 500 'face' but the X is arguably the prettier, more stylish version, and was targetted at the fastest growing sector of the new car market.

Buyers seem to love SUVs: there are lots of reasons from the high 'command' driving position, ease of access and image (even though the majority sold don't have a traditional SUV's all wheel drive system).

The 500X rivals many family-sized hatchbacks, with room for five adults, with plenty of headroom, and a decent 351 litres of boot space with easily foldable rear seats for a much larger, flat cargo area when the need arises.

But is also has lots of style: it isn't only the car's face which reminds you of its little city car sibling. Its interior is perhaps rather more mature (as befits that 'growing

The car has retro-look handles

family' buyer, but with features such as retro-look door handles, a body-coloured decor strip (bright alloy on top models) and a neatly intergrated infotainment screen with a wide range of functions.

The test car came in 'Lounge' trim, a front wheel drive version powered by a second generation multijet 1.6 litre turbo diesel which, at £20,935, is just about halfway up the 500X range.

The flagship model is the 'Cross' spec with all wheel drive, automatic transmission and a 2.0 litre diesel engine at a touch under £26,000.

The 1.6 turbo diesel, combined with a six-speed manual gearbox, isn't available with all wheel drive but it's still likely to be one of the most popular engine choices for both business and private buyers. The reason is its blend of performance (0 to 62mph in 10.5 seconds), economy (60mpg) and low CO2 emissions (109g'km) which translates into low road tax and benefit in kind costs.

It has plenty of torque from low revs for brisk, smooth progress and is quiet, too – there's no audible clue to the fact it's an oil-burner under the bonnet.

You can adjust the driving mode with a rotary switch between the seats (standard, sport and winter), which acts on steering and throttle response. Sport mode does make the car feel instantly more lively, more of a 'driver's car' but it's perfectly adequate in standard mode for most purposes.

Winter mode speaks for it out, softening up responses for tackling slippery conditions and naturally on a modern car you have a full range of ekectronic wizardry including traction and stability systems..

While the 500X is taller than most hatchback rivals, the suspension is a good combination - supple enough to soak up the bumps yet firm enough to ensure accurate turn-in through the twisty bits without any appreciable body roll. It's a comfortable, grown up experience.

Many buyers will be happy with the front wheel drive version, as with many of the 500X's compact SUV rivals. The Fiat's automatic system is a competent affair, and comes on models with the range's two most powerful engines, the 140bhp petrol and the 170bhp (two litre) diesel.

For many, there's no substitute for that Italian styling: it's pretty and practical, a car which appeals to both the heart and the head.

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63	Ford Focus Diesel 1.6 TDCi 115 Zetec Black 32k	£7,795	£8,295
14	Ford Grand C-max Diesel 1.6 TDCi Titanium Black 53k	£9,295	£9,795
14	Ford Grand C-max Diesel Estate 1.6 TDCi Zetec Blue 30k		£9,495
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63	Peugeot 3008 Diesel 1.6 e-HDi Active EGC Black 21k		£8,995
61	Peugeot 508 Sw Diesel Estate 1.6 HDi 112 SR Silver 127k		£4,995
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58	Vauxhall Combo 1.3 CDTi Auto With Access Ramp Silver 81k	£2,495	£2,995
15	Vauxhall Insignia Sports Tourer 2.0 CDTi [140] SRi Black 22k		£10,995
64	Vauxhall Insignia Sports Tourer 2.0 CDTi Design Blue 29k		£10,495
14	Vauxhall Meriva 1.6 CDTi 16V eco Exclusiv Blue 19k	£6,795	£7,295
62	Vauxhall Meriva Estate 1.4i 16V SE Grey 23k		£6,495
65	Vauxhall Mokka Diesel 1.6 CDTi ecoFLEX SE Black 22k	£11,295	£11,795
14	Vauxhall Mokka Hatchback 1.6i SE Blue 21k	£9,495	£9,995
14	Vauxhall Zafira 1.7 CDTi ecoFLEX Design Nav [110] Brown 42k		£7,495
60	Vauxhall Zafira Diesel Estate 1.9 CDTi Life [120] Blue 72k		£3,995
Others			
07	Audi A4 Diesel Saloon 2.0 TDi 170 S Line 4dr Grey 62k		£5,995
14	BMW X1 Diesel Estate sDrive 18d SE Step Auto White 23k		£13,795
14	BMW X1 Diesel Estate xDrive 18d xLine Black 30k	£14,295	£14,495
10	Chevrolet Spark Hatchback 1.2i LT Green 30k		£3,295
54	Daihatsu Copen Coupe Cabriolet 2dr, Red 40k	£2,795	£2,995
13	Hyundai I20 Diesel Hatchback 1.1 CRDi Active Black 49k	£4,995	£5,495
51	Mercedes Slk Roadster SLK 200K 2dr Tip Auto Blue 90k		£1,995
14	Mercedes A Class A180 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY Sport Grey 40k		£13,495
65	Mini Hatchback 1.5 Cooper Black 16k		£12,995
14	Mitsubishi Asx Estate 1.6 3 5dr Black 35k		£9,695
14	Renault Clio 1.5 dCi 90 Dyna MediaNav Energy Blue 22k		£7,995
65	Renault Grand Scenic 1.5 dCi Dynamique Nav Black 20k	£11,495	£11,995
13	Seat Altea Diesel Estate 2.0 TDI CR SE Copa DSG Grey 30k		£7,995
14	Skoda Roomster Estate 1.2 TSI 105 SE DSG Maroon 23k	£7,795	£8,295
14	Skoda Yeti Outdoor Estate 1.2 TSI SE White 27k	£10,495	£10,995
14	Toyota Yaris 1.33 VVT-i Icon+ Multidrive S Turquoise 26k	£7,995	£8,495
14	Volkswagen Golf Diesel 1.6 TDI 105 SE Silver 44k	£9,495	£9,995
64	Volkswagen Tiguan 2.0 TDi BlueMotion Tech DSG Silver 50k		£12,995
14	Volvo V40 D2 Cross Country Lux Powershift Black 37k		£10,495

Denise, who has joined forces with Change4Life, Sport England and Disney

Denise in another excerpt, showing the fun of exercise

Denise says exercise should be fun, with balloons a must

Denise with some of the youngsters in the10 Minute Shake Up videos

Denise Lewis competing in the Women's Heptathlon 100m Hurdles at the Olympic Stadium in Athens in 2004

Denise on track to shake up exercise for children

AFTER helping present the BBC coverage of the World Athletics Championships, former heptathlete, the Black Country's own Denise Lewis has turned her attention to something even more important – getting the nation's children active.

The Olympic gold medallist, who grew up in Pendeford, Wolverhampton, has joined forces with Change4Life, Sport England and Disney to encourage kids to try 10 Minute Shake Up, a series of 10-minute games and activities to help them work towards the 60 minutes of physical activity it's recommended children do every day.

Just 23 per cent of boys and 20 per cent of girls meet this recommended activity target, and one in five children starts primary school overweight or obese, rising to more than a third by the time they leave.

Physical

The West Bromwich-born mum-of-three, who won heptathlon gold at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, says: "Being active isn't just for Olympians, it's something that everyone – no matter their age, ability or interests – can and should take part in.

"It's alarming so few boys and girls are hitting their physical activity target, so we want to kickstart children into being more active. The focus is running, jumping, throwing, catching and co-ordination – the basics, hence why I got involved, as obviously those are things I know very well."

Kids are more likely to be active if their parents are.

SPORTING FEATURE

By Lisa O'Brien

As a mum, I know how important being a role model is to keeping my family active and healthy

The 10 Minute Shake Ups offer fun activities inspired by an array of Disney characters. "The activities are very simple and the whole family can get moving together," explains Denise, aged 44.

Denise tries the Shake Ups herself in a short video in which she's coached mercilessly by a seven-year-old girl. "The kids in the video wore me out," says the sporty mum, who has a daughter aged 15 and two boys, aged eight and 11.

"As a mum, I know how important being a role model is to keeping my family active and healthy. Right from the get-go with my children they've seen me going for a run, being part of athletics, doing circuits, and it's almost like osmosis. It's easier with a sporty parent, children will usually follow suit."

A survey by Public Health England and Disney found 57 per cent of children said they were more likely to be active if their parents were – although the main motivation for kids was having friends join in (53 per cent).

"Sporty parents will encourage their children to be active," says Denise.

"The real challenge is children who don't have active parents – how do you get those guys involved as well?" Denise suggests the key is to make activity easy at first, hence the bite-size, 10-minute chunks parents can join in with; playing simple balloon games, for example.

"Just 10 minutes sounds do-able to anybody. You can fit it into your day and, if you're enjoying it, perhaps you'll build it up and before you know it the kids have hit the target of an hour a day. You realise that just getting the heart rate increased is doing everyone's bodies the world of good."

Activity also helps psychologically. The survey found being active made the majority of those aged five to 11 feel happier (79 per cent), more confident (72 per cent), and more sociable (74 per cent).

And while Denise admits it would be "fantastic" if the 10 Minute Shake-Ups put children on the path to becoming top athletes, that's not really what the programme's about.

"If we get an Olympian out of this, I would love it," she says, "but this is about the bigger picture of having exercise and activity as part of your lifestyle."

And 17 years after winning Olympic gold, activity is still very much part of Denise's life. She runs, cycles and does circuits and weight training. "I exercise now for that space in my mind – and also so I can maintain my jeans size," she admits. "I don't feel the pressure like I used to. It's about that time away from being a busy mum."

Denise is optimistic about British sport's future and thinks there's a plethora of talent coming through, particularly in women's sport.

"There are a lot of positive role models for young women, inspiring other women to want to get involved. That's a great antidote to the negative images I see, like the selfies girls my daughter's age take – it's all they seem to think about. "Let's get them thinking about being active instead."

Windies test proves a big hit for Edgbaston

CATERING sales were the highest ever for a non-Ashes Test at Edgbaston as England beat the West Indies in three days. Warwickshire's ground hosted the first day/night Test in England recently.

Warwickshire County Cricket Club chief executive Neil Snowball praised the efforts of everyone involved. Edgbaston handled 70,000 spectators across the three days of play, recording sell-outs on the second and third day.

"One of the primary reasons for playing this Investec Test match in day/night conditions was to support England in preparation for this winter's Ashes. However, to become the first UK venue to stage such a fixture has been an honour and builds on our reputation for innovation.

"We also recognised the commercial opportunity and estimate that total ticket sales increased by 25 per cent as a result of the change in format and increased marketing. Hospitality sales were also ahead of forecast and our merchandise sales were up 30 per cent," said Mr Snowball.

New-look triathlon entry date revealed

ATHLETES looking to take part in next year's Staffordshire Ironman – saved thanks to a change of location – can soon register online.

The Ironman 70.3 event, which has been in the county since 2015, was left without a home after the Shugborough Estate, where the race was based, said it would no longer play host. Staffordshire County Council had said the event, which has previously attracted celebrity names such as chef Gordon Ramsay, would remain in the county but concerns were raised it might have to be scrapped if a home could not be found.

However, it has been revealed the race will be based in Stafford town centre, with the athlete village, expo, second transition area, run course and finish line all being based there. The move will see a change to the run with a second transition area located at Riverway and course will also consist of three laps in and around the town, finishing in Market Square.

The bike course will undergo some minor changes.

For more details visit www.ironman.com/staffordshire70.3.

City club marking its golden birthday

A HISTORIC sports and social club is celebrating its 50th anniversary next month. The Old Wulfrunians Club was originally established in 1951, when the original members met in rooms above Barclays Bank in Queen Square, Wolverhampton.

The group was eventually able to commission the building of a purpose-built new clubhouse on the sports ground owned by the club, which opened on September 1, 1967.

Fifty years on and the club is now home to cricket and football teams of all age groups, with a newly-formed snooker team.

The anniversary event, which will have a 1960s theme, will begin at 7.30pm. People are invited to bring along any photos or memorabilia relating to the club.

Club members would love to see as many old friends as possible to reminisce and celebrate. For more information, call 01902 761410 or visit www.oldwulfruniansclub.co.uk.

Sport

Denise on track to help youngsters

Page 51

West Brom edge derby day thriller

WEST BROMWICH DARTMOUTH won a thrilling, but low-scoring, derby with Wolverhampton in the Birmingham & District League Premier Division.

Tom Fell top-scored with 44 as Wolverhampton set their rivals 134 to chase down, with West Brom's Sultan Afsal taking 7-40. The hosts were in deep trouble in their reply at 16-5, but Brinder Phagura (50no) saw them over the line.

Walsall and Kidderminster remain in trouble after their latest defeats.

Smethwick took advantage of Moseley's loss to move back to the top of Division One. Mohammed Sheikh took 4-47 as Smethwick bowled Attock out for 267, and despite not losing their first wicket until 154 runs were on the board, they got home with one wicket to spare. Openers Amrinder Brar (103) and Waqar Saleem (45) top-scored.

Himley edged home in similar fashion at Bridgnorth, thanks in part to Nipun Karunanayake (81) and Bilaal Hussain (77). Halesowen, Fordhouses and Cannock & Rugeley Hawks kept their Division Two promotion hopes alive.

Ed Kilbee (131), Hassan Qaumi (76) and Jamie Harris (49no) starred in Halesowen's triumph over Sutton Coldfield.

Wombourne were also victorious, but Old Hill were beaten by Harborne.

Neil Curtis hit 46 and Sam Bates 41 as Streetly remained top of Division Three with victory over Worcester Nomads.

There were also wins for Brewood (Chris Tranter 63no) and Lichfield (David Roberts 132), but defeats for Stourbridge and Milford Hall.

Bears are torn apart by Jarvis in 6-wicket rout

WARWICKSHIRE were left on the back foot as Kyle Jarvis took six wickets in an innings for the second County Championship match running to give Lancashire the advantage after day one against at Old Trafford.

Jarvis returned 6-67 from 18.2 overs as the Bears were bowled out for 200 on the stroke of tea after electing to bat.

They slipped from 89-3 at lunch to 119-8 before Jeetan Patel and ninth-wicket partner Olly Stone shared 76 to limit some of the damage.

Lancashire then lost Haseeb Hameed, Alex Davies and Dane Vilas cheaply as they replied with 112-3 from 33 overs.

Jarvis took a Red Rose best of 6-61 against Hampshire in their last match, a draw at the Ageas Bowl at the start of the month.

Here, the Zimbabwean claimed all six wickets in the afternoon having improved significantly from his morning new ball spell.

All 10 Warwickshire wickets fell from the Statham End of the ground, with stand-in captain Ryan McLaren claiming 4-45 from 18 overs.

Abbie-Jane is the pride of Sandwell

Abbie-Jane Mansell

ABBIE-JANE Mansell may have only just qualified for the 14 to 17-year-olds category in her chosen sport of karate, but that did not stop her returning from the European Championships in Belgium with three gold medals.

14-year-old Abbie-Jane, from Hill Top took part in the individual, pairs and team events, striking gold each time, so it is no surprise she has been awarded one of Sandwell Council's 'Gifted and Talented' grant awards.

Councillor Richard Marshall, who chairs the Gifted and Talented grant awards panel, said: "Abbie-Jane is obviously so committed to her sport and I have to say the control and discipline a sport like karate requires mean that Abbie-Jane works very hard and shows a great deal of determination to have already achieved so much.

"We hope Abbie-Jane continues to excel at the top level and Sandwell council is pleased to support Abbie-Jane and her family." Sandwell Council's 'Gifted and Talented' programme is still open to applications having been specifically set up to provide financial support to elite young athletes living in the Borough.

Anyone living in Sandwell and competing at top level can visit the webpage www.sandwell.gov.uk/giftedandtalented for more information about grants available to support Sandwell's top young athletes.

EVANS: £30M OR NOTHING

ALBION are sticking stringently to their £30 million valuation of Jonny Evans after rejecting Leicester City's 'derisory' offer for their skipper.

The bid – the second from the Foxes to be knocked back during the current transfer window – is thought to have been worth a total of £23million including add-ons.

Jonny Evans

But it was rejected out of hand by the Baggies, who are also understood to be unimpressed by what they view as an attempt to unsettle the Northern Ireland international so close to Thursday's deadline.

Manchester City, who failed with an £18million bid of their own for Evans earlier in the month, are also rumoured to be preparing an improved offer in the next 48 hours. Yet the onus is on them to move quickly, with the Baggies wary of selling Evans too close to the deadline and being left little time to bring in a replacement, such as Mamadou Sakho.

Evans, who has yet to feature this season due to injury, addressed the speculation surrounding his future in the match programme ahead of Sunday's 1-1 draw with Stoke. "Until anybody tells me different, I'm committed to the Albion, and I'm only thinking about getting in this team," he said.

Leicester had already failed with an initial £10million bid earlier in the window but have given boss Craig Shakespeare funds to strengthen and Evans is among his top targets.

Reports in Turkey suggested the Baggies have had a £10.6million offer accepted by Fenerbahce for midfielder Josef de Souza. The 28-year-old Brazilian does not hold an EU passport and would require a work permit to play in England.

Positives to take from poor show

Jay Rodriguez throws himself in front of two Stoke defenders to head home Baggies' goal

THOSE who watched Albion versus Stoke on their TVs at home, probably switched off and went outside to enjoy the sunshine.

But then, on the hour-mark, Albion's two best players sparked the game into life with a move deserving of a goal.

Gareth Barry won possession in the middle of park – again – and the ball was ferried out to Allan Nyom on the right-hand side.

He had kept Jese quiet all day, and he left the former Real Madrid player for dead before whipping in a dangerous cross.

It flew over Salomon Rondon, who rarely seems to be in the right place at the right time, but then Jay Rodriguez showed him how it's done.

But then came the mistake.

It will go down as a mix-up, and maybe Ben Foster did put Ahmed Hegazi off with a late call, but it is really the big Egyptian's error.

If he hadn't miscued the ball, Foster would have gathered it safely.

Not that this mistake should tarnish Hegazi's fantastic start to life at The Hawthorns.

He was man of the match in the first two games of the season and was playing well against Stoke until this misjudgement.

The problem is, when you settle for 1-0, as Pulis does, there is no safety cushion.

One error will lose you two points.

Still, the Baggies are in a good place right now, even if this game was hard to watch.

Draw made for boxing title contest

MANNY ZABER and Jack Summers will renew acquaintances after the draw for Black Country Boxing's Super Series: The Super Featherwights was made.

Eight Midlands boxers will compete over three nights to be crowned the Midlands Area Super Featherweight Champion. The quarter-finals take place at Walsall Town Hall on Sunday, October 15, over six three-minute rounds.

Old Hill's Zaber and West Bromwich's Summers (3-2) are both managed by BCB head of boxing, Errol Johnson, and have shared the ring countless times as sparring partners. Zaber boasts a superior record but Summers is a tough competitor who will be looking to cause an upset.

Chasetown's Luke Jones steps in with Leicester's Joe Ducker. At 32, Ducker is nine years Jones' senior but has just two more professional fights than his younger opponent. By fight night, that will be down to one as Jones fights on BCB's 'On The Edge' promotion at Walsall Football Club this Friday.

There's a Second City derby as Birmingham's Paul Holt meets fellow Brummie Waqas Mohammed. Finally, former stablemates and fellow Tamworth residents Louis Fielding and Tamworth's Josh Baillie go head-to-head.

"It's a really exciting concept," explained Johnson. "The draw has created quite a stir. It promises to be a great afternoon of boxing and a tournament concept that we want to roll out across the weight divisions."

Perry leads the victory charge

PATCHED-UP Cradley kept their slender National League play-off hopes alive with a vital 56-34 win over the Belle Vue Colts, *writes Tim Hamblin*.

Skipper Tom Perry had labelled this one a must-win – and led from the front with a full 15-point maximum as his men duly delivered at 'Monmore Wood'.

Victory looked a tall order for Cradley with Connor Coles standing in for Danny Ayres, who was absent on compassionate leave, and the Heathens running rider-replacement for the injured Richard Hall. But the Colts also had their problems, Dan Bewley's injury for the senior side against Wolves earlier in the evening ruling him out.

★★★

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING The recycled content of newspapers in 2015 was 62.8%

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford.
Thursday, August 31, 2017

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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

OPEN EVENING

Thursday 21st September 2017 7pm-9pm, Oldacre Road, Oldbury, B68 0RG

Open Days: Thursday 14th and Tuesday 19th September and Thursday 5th October 2017 9.00am - 10.30am.

For more details please visit our website www.perryfieldshigh.sandwell.sch.uk

Perryfields High School

Specialist Maths and Computing College

Together we achieve excellence

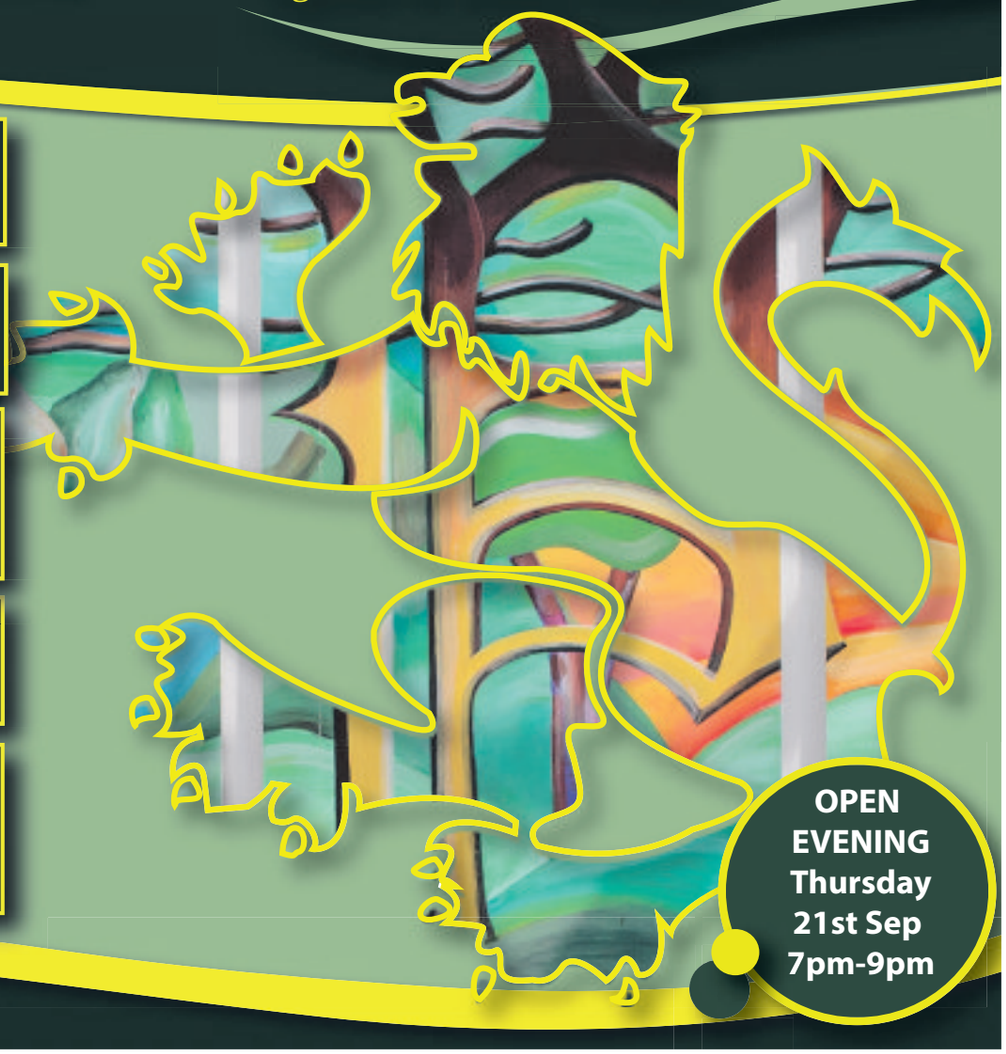
Congratulations to Perryfields pupils and staff for their continued hard work and academic achievements in 2017.

Once again Perryfields has secured an excellent set of GCSE and A Level results this year maintaining our strong academic performance over recent years.

The secondary schools success is built on a foundation which includes good quality teaching, high standards of behaviour and excellent relationships between staff, pupils and parents.

Perryfields is oversubscribed again this year with full entry in all year groups and a rapidly developing Sixth Form.

95% of our Sixth Form leavers have secured a place at their chosen University. The others have gained jobs or apprenticeships. One student has joined the Royal Marines as an officer.



OPEN EVENING Thursday 21st Sep 7pm-9pm

Why choose Perryfields?

"Pupils' attitude to learning
overwhelmingly p

Mr Ian Barton

"I am proud and delighted to be appointed as the new Headteacher of Perryfields High School from September 2017. I am confident that we will continue to establish Perryfields as an outstanding learning environment for the 21st century. I look forward to continuing the school's high aspirations".

Mr I Barton, Headteacher

Caring for our Young Carers

"As a young carer, the School has helped me by creating a nurture group. We get a chance to speak to other young carers. The nurture group has given me more confidence in myself and I don't feel as stressed as before. I feel like a new person".

Goonjan Kaur Yr9

Our Newl
curricular
can push
criteria an
confident

Nicole Gisbourne Yr 8 Academic Excellence

James Russell Yr11 Duke of Edinburgh Award

Celebrating Success

Perryfields hosts an annual awards ceremony at the West Bromwich Albion football club to celebrate excellence.

Goonjan Kaur (yr9) sharing her experiences of being a young carer.

Young Carers in Schools Award 2017

"I like being a peer Mentor, people come out of the Green Room happy after a chat". Mia Lyman Yr 9

We have just received the Silver Young Carers Award. We are the first and only School in Sandwell to achieve this.

Hearts s

Our year 7
skipping e
immense e
managed t
has been s

Katie Johnson, Katie Matthieson, Cara Lynam, Lishna Johnson, Ellie Lasorz and Niall Curtis.

Chair Challenge

Well done Niall Curtis for your winning innovative chair design for our Department competition.

PRODUCT DESIGN

"Perryfields High School shows it has excellent pastoral support on offer to pupils." The Children's Society

The Drama Department organise and perform several shows per year

Drama

Introducing our new
Head Boy Jack Lu (to
Head Boy, Tom Mu
new Associate Head
Our new Head G

Geography Award

The Geography Department have recently been awarded the Secondary Geography Quality Mark from the Geographical Association.

Geography

"We are one of the few Schools in in the Midlands with the award".

GOOD DIABETES CARE IN SCHOOL DIABETES UK

Diabetes Gold

We are delighted to have just received the gold award for our care of young people with diabetes.

"Food here is way better than Primary, I look forward to it every day". Akobi Folarin Yr10

Perry's Diner

ONATTI Productions in action.

Not only did we have students studying French and Spanish GCSE this year, but we also had a number of students studying Chinese, Italian and Polish! A highlight for Year 9 students this year has been watching Spanish plays put on by ONATTI Productions.

MFL

"The behaviour of pupils is good"
Ofsted

A performance fit for the Queen

A group of our very talented students performed as part of Sandwell's Youth Brass Band for the Queen in 2015.

"It was really cool play
for the Queen, even th
rained all day!". Oliver Pic

Together we achieve excellence

is
ositive"
Ofsted

Leadership Pyramid

y introduced Leadership Pyramid recognises students and extra curricular efforts and involvement. Students themselves to a Leadership level through hitting specific d collecting all 3 badges. The leadership Pyramid builds , well-rounded individuals ready for their futures.

Duke of Edinburgh

At Perryfields we offer the opportunity to be involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Award from Year 9. We regularly have up to 50 participants taking part at Bronze Level and Silver.

"D of E is really fun, we have to to set-up our tents and cook our our own food". Sam Tennant Yr11

Long Hikes using only a map for direction.

skipping a Beat

and 8 girls took part in a sponsored vent during April '17. After an effort from all of the PE groups they to raise a whopping £1,616.75p which ent to the British Heart Foundation.

A massive thank you to all who took part!

"The School promotes strong spiritual, moral and social values, including respect for people from different cultural backgrounds. Pupils are well prepared for life in modern Britain". Ofsted

ly appointed Associate op Left) next to our new rphy. Bottom left is our Girl, Emma Watts next to irl, Lucy Bissecker.

Literacy Co-ordinators

Our Literacy Co-ordinators support the English Department within English and Literacy. They host reading groups with pupils who we are targeting for intervention and run competitions for all pupils to take part in. These pupils are also responsible for leading a 'pupil voice'.

"Pupils feel very safe in School, and parents agree" Ofsted

SHARP

SHARP is an integrated system at Perryfields that is used by all staff to track behaviour and celebrate success. Challenges are often set and form groups compete to win prizes. Every term the forms with the highest amount of positive SHARP points from each family are rewarded with a Movie screening, pizza and a day in non-School uniform. There is also a prize draw for students who have not received any negative SHARP points to win a Samsung Galaxy tablet. Congratulations to our most recent SHARP winners for Christmas, Jagjeevan Mahal, Callum Williams, Harnak Channa and Amy Fairbrother, Ryan Williams and Thomas Charles for Easter.

"I never win anything so I was really happy" Thomas Charles Yr 8

Some of our recent SHARP winners, Callum Williams Yr9 , Ryan Williams Yr 7, Harnek Channa Yr8 and Aimee Fairbrother Yr 9.

Dance

The Dance department have had a very successful year, from dance shows and competitions to several performance visits. Perry's dance company were successful in reaching the regional finals for the 'Great Big Dance off'.

Our Key Stage 4 Dance Group at Wolverhampton grand theatre for the dance competition.

ying ough it rowski

Jade Hall Yr11 Competition Entry.

Charlie Major Yr 11 Competition Winner.

Art Success

The Art department won a national competition gaining a £1000 cash prize for their work celebrating diversity at Perryfields. More recently, Shai-Brianne Bedward and Charlie Major from Year 11 were successful in a local competition and had their artwork featured in a Sandwell calendar. They also received Kindles.

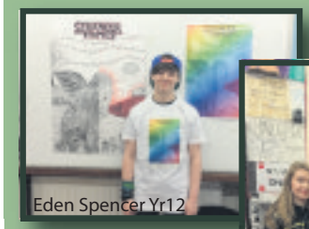
Adriana Di-Vito Yr11 Competition Entry.

OPEN EVENING
Thursday
21st Sep
7pm-9pm

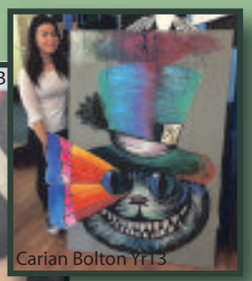
ART

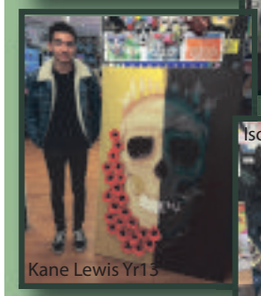
A-Level Art

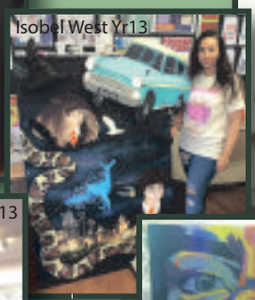
Our last A-Level Art exhibition, Blood, Sweat and Tears was brilliant and showcased some of our strongest work to date. Students organised and hosted the exhibition and all who attended were astonished at the large canvases produced. Guests included, A level students, GCSE students, Parents and lecturers from local universities.


Eden Spencer Yr12

Isobelle Foy Yr13


Carian Bolton Yr13


Kane Lewis Yr13


Isobel West Yr13

Nicola Santon Yr12

Kaila [illegible] Yr13

Hannah Warren Yr13

2017 Prom

Once again our Year 11 prom was a success and all who attended had a fabulous evening. Both our young ladies and gentlemen dressed to impress in order to celebrate their achievements in style.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish our Year 11 leavers and Mr Meredith the best of luck for their future endevors.

Masie Miley, Amy Walford, Niamh Donnerly, Emma Chapman, Lauren Gordon and Katy Talboys(Left to right)

Daljodh Riyat, Rhys White, Arron Flaherty, Ekam Nagra and Jonathan Lawrence. (Left to right)

Ophelia Nunes-Wickham pictured here with our recently retired Headteacher, Mr D Meredith.

transiTION Y6 to Y7

Welcome to our New Year 7 2017

Perryfields would like to welcome our new Year 7. These photographs were taken during their taster days back in July. Whilst at Perryfields the students worked from a timetable to experience a day in the life of a secondary school student. The two days were hugely successful and left students feeling confident for their September start.

Photo manipulation in ICT.

Science Lesson.

Trips

Our History Department take their Year11 GCSE students to Belgium annually. The trip is continuously a great success.

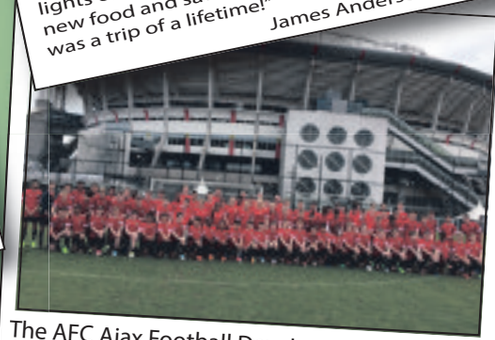
Dance trip to New York 2016.

Biannual USA Tour 2016

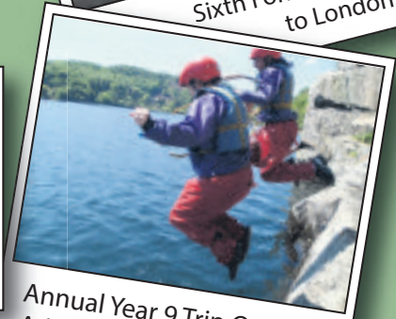
"Visiting America with Perrfyields was amazing, vast experiences ranged from the baking heat of Death Valley to the blinding lights of Vegas. I made new friends, tasted new food and saw some beautiful sights. It was a trip of a lifetime!"

James Anderson, Yr9

Sixth Form Dance trip to London.


The AFC Ajax Football Development Tour 2017

In May 2017 the PE Department took 88 pupils to The Netherlands. The AFC Ajax Football Development Tour was a complete success. Pupils had the opportunity to train with the professional coaches of Ajax, play matches against local Dutch teams, visit Amsterdam, visit Efteling Theme Park and finally round off the trip with a stadium tour of the Johan Cruyff Arena. Every Ajax coach, restaurant, company, coach driver and member of the public we encountered commended our pupils on their impeccable behaviour, which helped make the trip a once in a lifetime experience for pupils and staff involved.


Annual Year 9 Trip Outdoor Adventures, Plas Gwynant.

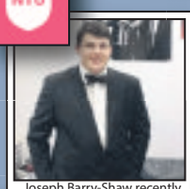
SixthForm

Ensuring our students have fulfilling futures

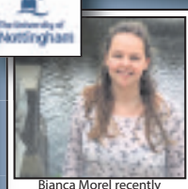
"16-19 Careers advice is strong. The School makes good use of its links with local universities, and learners told inspectors that they felt very well supported in choosing their future destinations". Ofsted

Our mission is to equip every student with the skills and knowledge they need to lead successful and fulfilling lives when they leave us. After achieving excellent A-Level results at Perryfields, here is what a few of our students are doing now...

NTU


Joseph Barry-Shaw recently graduated with a 1st Class Hons Degree in Law (BEd).

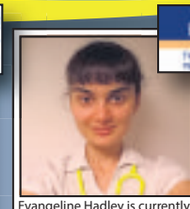
The University of Nottingham


Bianca Morel recently graduated with a 1st Class Hons Degree in Biology (BSc).

Coventry University

Jordan Day recently graduated with a 1st Class Hons Degree in Computer Science (BSc).

H·Y·M·S THE HULL YORK PRIORY SCHOOL


Evangeline Hadley is currently studying for a Degree in medicine.

SIXTH FORM TASTER EVENING WEDNESDAY 27th Sep 6pm-8pm

Preparing for the next steps - Join us on Wednesday 27th September for taster lessons and fayre.